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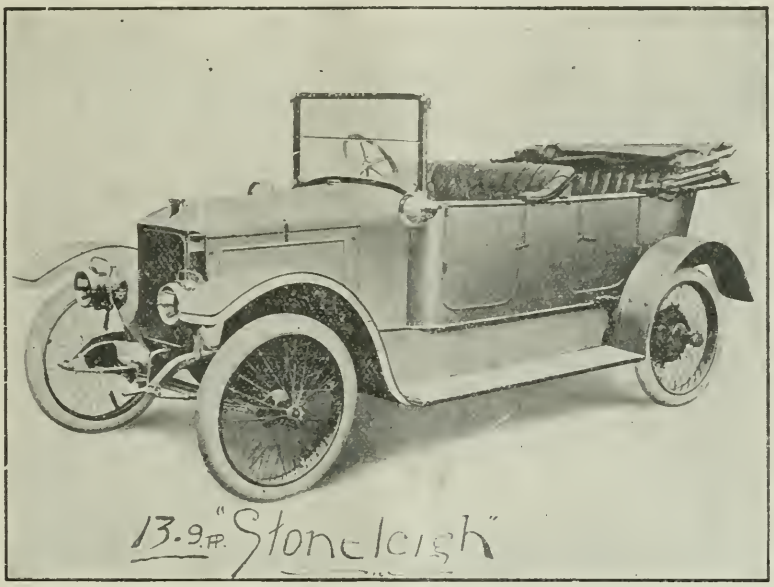

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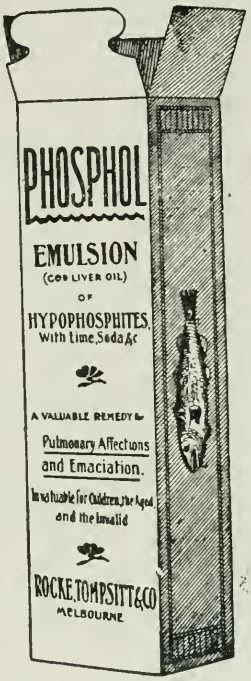

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THE AUSTRALASIAN

Journal of Pharmacy.

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No. 329 MAY 20TH, 1913. Vol. XXVIII.

ENGLAND.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

London,
5th April, 1913.

THE SCHEDULING OF HYPNOTICS.

The Privy Council has approved of the scheduling of the "Sulphonal" and "Diethyl-Barbituric Acid" groups as legal poisons. As the various Australian Pharmacy Boards may contemplate the passing of similar regulations, it is interesting to note the distinction which has been made in placing these articles in Part II. In reality, there has been no departure in principle in adopting this course. "All poisonous vegetable alkaloids and their salts," remain Part I. poisons, but "preparations" of such alkaloids will come under Part II. All the well-known preparations are included within the scope of the new regulation, as well as a number of drugs which, as yet, are rarely met with in medicine. Generally, the public press has commended the Pharmaceutical Society in restricting the sale of these drugs. *The Times*, in referring to the matter, says:—

"The object, no doubt, is to circumvent the ingenuity and enterprise of the foreign

manufacturing chemists who produce most of these things, and who are always ready to find a substitute for any scheduled drug in another nearly related to it. In fact, the same drug is often sold under different names, veronal itself appearing in the market under several fancy titles. People who are scared by what they read from time to time about veronal get something else, which they are assured has all the advantages of veronal, while producing none of its dangerous effects. As likely as not they are taking just the same stuff as before, but it makes them happy to wear their rue with a difference."

THE INSURANCE ACT.

The Standing Committee has decided that in future the apothecaries' ounce of 480 grains is to be the basis on which pharmacists are to work, and the ounce prices in the dispensary tariff have been revised accordingly. There is a good deal of grumbling going on as to the low scale of charges, and some chemists are resigning from the panels. In official circles this policy is deprecated, because it is thought it may lead to the establishment of dispensaries and a return to the practice of dispensing by medical men.

A Yorkshire daily newspaper, which has interviewed doctors in all the densely populated centres, has obtained expressions of opinion which contain several points of interest to chemists. The doctors are unanimously of opinion that the Act has struck a severe blow at proprietary medicines, and that the total consumption of medicines is being enormously increased, insured people being very much more keen for treatment than they were when they had to pay in proportion to what they got. Practically self-doctoring has entirely ceased amongst more than half a million insured persons, and the "early elimination of the quack" is forecasted. Dr. T. W. Applegate, says: "None of the patients like the idea of having to go to the chemist for their medicine." Dr. Robert Muschamp says he fears that if the present rate of prescribing continues the floating sixpence, which is liable to be drawn upon should the cost of dispensing under the Act exceed the chemist's present allowance of 1s. 6d. per insured person, will be absorbed by the chemist." A Bradford doctor, who maintains anonymity, says: "Judging from the amount of medicine taken, there is going to be no money left for the chemists." All the doctors declare that there is an immense amount of prescribing for trivial ailments.

THE PRETENTIONS OF THE UNQUALIFIED.

The unqualified owners of drug stores are claiming to be put on the same footing as registered chemists with regard to National Insurance dispensing. Xrayser II., in the *Chemist and Druggist* (March 15, 1913), trenchantly sums up the position:— "How do these men stand in relation to their claim? For years they have refused to qualify themselves for the work as the law prescribes; many of them have failed to do so through sheer inability, others in a spirit of hostility. They have habitually sailed as near to the wind of the law as it was safe to do, and have at the same time held it up to ridicule. The power they have thus flouted they now seek to bluff; they say, We will not submit ourselves to your ridiculous tests, but we demand to be treated as if we had passed them. Such effrontery is almost sublime. 'Nil Desperandum' did well to write, and you to print, his little account of how he proved that he was not too old at thirty-four to negotiate the Minor examination. His fine example is well worth the space you give it, *pour encourager les autres*. For there must be hundreds, perhaps thousands, of others who have neglected the golden opportunities of youth and for whom there now remains only the comparative penury of the unqualified assistant's meagre wage. Of these men there must be many who, with a little of your correspondent's grit and determination, would be perfectly able to overcome the difficulties that face a married man in his efforts to qualify. One such I myself have known. He came to me one day in distress with the news that his employer had given him notice to leave, could I give him a berth? He, too, was married and well over thirty, and not even the Preliminary to his credit. My answer was, I fear, hard-hearted, for after talking out the whole situation all I could say was, 'Qualify, and I will give you a position.' He there and then determined he would and told me that the next time I saw him he would be qualified. I shook my head, for I had

heard that story before. But he came back two years later and he did not want a position, as his employer was only too glad to take him back as a manager. This happened less than ten years ago."

TOILET ARTICLES NOT MEDICINES.

At the Aberdeen Police Court on March 6, Robert Hunter, chemist and druggist, was charged with having on the weekly half-holiday sold a cake of toilet-soap, a sponge, and a shaving-brush, these being goods other than medicines and medical and surgical appliances. Defendant pleaded guilty, and stated that the sale had been made to a lady apparently employed by the complainer. He could understand a lady buying toilet-soap and a sponge, but he could not understand her buying a shaving-brush, although it might have been for the use of her husband. For the prosecution it was pointed out that Mr. Hunter was one of the largest chemists in Aberdeen. Following a complaint in August last, Mr. Hunter told an inspector that he would stop selling general goods on Wednesday afternoon, the day of the half-holiday. The chemists had kept a further watch, and on February 12th a letter was received by the inspector from one of the chemists in Aberdeen complaining bitterly of accused. Defendant said there was no serious intention on his part of defying the Act. It was sometimes very difficult to draw a line of demarcation between what were surgical and medical appliances and the other parts of a chemist's stock-in-trade. The Sheriff: You don't suggest that a shaving-brush is a surgical appliance? Defendant was fined 20s., with 20s. 6d. expenses.

GENERAL.

An Unregistered Chemist, at Newport, who carried on a drug store, was fined £5 with costs, on March 13th, at the instance of the Pharmaceutical Society for selling red precipitate contrary to the Pharmacy and Poisons Act. The defendant raised an unsuccessful plea that he employed a registered chemist to dispense medicines for him under the National Insurance Act. His Honour pointed out that this was no defence, as defendant had been keeping an open shop for the sale of poisons, and his own label was on the package which was sold. The facts were all against defendant, and judgment must be given for the amount of the statutory penalty.

The Italian Pharmacy Bill, says the *Pharmaceutical Journal*, which has been before the legislature for so long, and aroused a great deal of opposition, has at last passed the Chamber. The measure, which is of a revolutionary character, limits the number of pharmacies, and will eventually make a State service of them. One pharmacy is to be allowed for every 5000 inhabitants, and for the right to open a pharmacy the chemist must pay a royalty varying from £6 in the small villages to £240 in the large towns, but he acquires no disposing rights in the property, which on his death or retirement reverts to the Government, and is again to be acquired on a similar payment by the successful candidate in public competition. In this competition none are allowed to take part but Italian citizens, which will mean the eventual closure of all foreign pharmacies, which, however, are allowed a period of twenty years' grace.

The Function and Scope of a Chemist in a Pharmaceutical Works was the subject of an informative lecture delivered by Mr. C. A. Hill, managing director of the British Drug Houses, Ltd., before the members of the Institute of Chemistry on March 12th. Mr. Hill pointed out that the pharmaceutical manufacturing business offered to the organic chemist an extensive and most attractive field, not only in the isolation of alkaloids, glucosides, and other pure active substances from plants, but also in the manufacture of synthetic organic compounds which enjoy such a large and increasing vogue in the present-day practice of medicine. The utilisation of waste liquors to form valuable bye-products was referred to. There was no valid reason, Mr. Hill said, why a combination of capital and enterprise should not in a few years bring about the manufacture in Great Britain of a large number of substances now supplied from the Continent. He mentioned, in this connection, that "spent" Tolu contained as a waste product 20 per cent. of mixed aromatic acids, of which about nine-tenths was cinnamic, and about one-tenth benzoic, free and combined. The successful man in a pharmaceutical or chemical business should be a chemist first and a business man after, not the other way round—i.e., business trained, who has learned a little chemistry incidentally, and become a half-trained or amateur chemist.

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EDITORIAL.

The Obligations of the Pharmacist.

Considerable attention has been given recently in Great Britain and America to the question of the pharmacists' obligations. According to published reports, it is apparent that in both countries there has been a greater disposition to raise the conception of a pharmacist's duties to himself and the community generally to a higher level. Perhaps in the United States and Canada this movement has been most marked. Careful observers, however, have noticed the same tendency in Great Britain. It is not a matter either of putting commercialism altogether in the back ground, because in many instances the successful business man has been in the forefront of this movement to place the pharmacist on a better footing from the scientific and professional standpoint.

No one has yet devised a written code of ethics for pharmacists. It might prove a very difficult thing to do. But certain main principles, which might be described as ethical tendencies, have nevertheless been making themselves felt. To put these in a concrete form—

1. The community of interest is greater.
2. The standard of education has an upward tendency.
3. The realisation that the pharmacist is entitled to relaxation and relief from long hours of confinement to his business, has come after years of slavish adherence to the belief that his personal attention at all hours of the day and night was an urgent necessity.
4. The voluntary acceptance of restrictive legislation imposed in the interests of the community and sometimes to the detriment of the individual pharmacist.
5. Greater social intercourse between members of the craft, and a broadening of the conception of the true lines of conduct which should exist between one pharmacist and another.

Applying these principles to Australia, it can truly be said that much the same thing is evident here. On the other hand, are all the obligations cast on the craft as a whole

well and faithfully observed? We believe that in the main they are. In most cases the pharmacist exercises a reasonable discretion as to where his province ends and the physician's begins. His service to the public as a general rule is a fair and honourable one, notwithstanding inadequate State protection and a false idea as to the proper reward of his labor. His attitude to his brother pharmacist has improved as the result of a generally broader outlook on life. His support of pharmaceutical organisations is probably more loyal than ever it was before. His knowledge of current pharmaceutical thought is wider, being based on a more careful study of matters directly affecting his interests. These are obligations which are now being accepted as the corollary of mutual co-operation in the face of strong external competition. They are based also on the fact that honest service is the best in the long run, and that loyalty to one's craft or union is a necessity under modern conditions governing all industries.

In one sense, however, it may fairly be said that the average pharmacist is not doing all he might. The problem of the unqualified is an acute one. It may at any hour become a menace to those who have spent time and money in acquiring a statutory qualification. There is a small army of unqualified assistants employed in pharmacies throughout Australia, many of whom have never tried to pass their examinations. They have become, as was recently pointed out, "drifters," and "barnacles" to the calling. Yet the jibe is thrown at pharmacists that they have made them so. By giving them employment, by not encouraging them to study for their examinations, and by neglecting to give them facilities to acquire the necessary preliminary scholastic knowledge in the early stages of their career, master pharmacists are said to have created a class of unqualified assistants, to the serious detriment of the qualified. Are these assertions justified? They were placed before the Minister of Labour in all seriousness by the assistants' organisation as a true statement of the position. The answer lies with each individual pharmacist. What are his obligations in this direction? Is he fulfilling them to the best of his ability? On the answer depends in a great measure the future of Australian pharmacy. The problem of the unqualified and the pharmacist's obligations in regard thereto is consequently one which should receive very careful consideration by Master Pharmacists in every State. It is a responsibility which cannot be ignored, and a satisfactory solution of the problem can only be found in the right attitude of individual pharmacists towards each particular case which comes under notice.

National Insurance.

Pharmacists in each State are now considering this matter in its Federal aspect. A similar problem is at present confronting Irish pharmacists. The British Act did not extend to Ireland in the first place, but it is now proposed to include Ireland in its provisions. Irish pharmacists, after carefully considering the position, drew up the following recommendations as the basis of their support of the proposal:—

(a) That the dispensing contemplated under the Bill should be done under the direct supervision of a pharmacist.

(b) That no agreement for the supply of medicines for insured persons should be made except with a person or firm entitled to carry on the statutory business of a pharmaceutical chemist.

(c) That the control of medical and pharmaceutical services to insured persons be in the

hands of the Health Committees (subject to regulations passed by the Commissioners), and not under the control of Friendly Societies.

(d) That pharmacy should be represented on the Health Committees, and on the Advisory Committee, or the Insurance Commission.

(e) That remuneration should be by a scale system, and not up n a *per capita* basis.

(f) That a panel of all qualified pharmacists in a particular district willing to arrange for a supply of medicines to insured persons at the scale rate should be set up, so that the insured person could, within the limit of the panel, choose his own pharmacist.

(g) That pharmaceutical benefits should not be extended to persons earning more than £104 per annum.

These proposals are reprinted here because they may well be accepted as the leading principles upon which Australian pharmacists might base their negotiations in the event of Commonwealth legislation. Probably the wage limit of £104 per annum would require to be varied somewhat. Otherwise the suggestions apply admirably to Australian conditions.

The Melbourne *Age*, of May 10th, in a very strong editorial in favour of the Nationalisation of medicine, clearly indicates its views that such reforms must be made independently of the Friendly Societies, whom it accuses of paying "hideously low" rates to the medical profession. Compared with the sweating remuneration paid to doctors by these bodies in Australia, the *Age* states that Mr. Lloyd George's proposals are liberality in the extreme. Evidently the weight and influence of the *Age* is going to be thrown on the doctors' side, and against the Friendly Societies. The article is one which should be read by all who are interested in this important subject.

THE MONTH.

The Drug Habit.

The *Australasian Medical Gazette* of May 10th has an interesting editorial under the above heading. It appreciates the difficulty of satisfactorily legislating against the drug habitue as a class, and acknowledges the great responsibilities which are cast on medical practitioners in their relation thereto. Increasing care on the part of the profession in prescribing the drugs, and restriction on the sale of them by pharmacists, especially in tablet form without the doctor's order, should, in the opinion of the *Gazette*, go a long way towards checking the present apparent increase in the drug habit in Australia.

Regulation of Hypnotics.

The Pharmacy Board of Victoria has taken a move in the direction of placing some restrictions on the sale of narcotic and hypnotic drugs. A regulation is now before the Government which, if approved, will restrict the sale of these drugs to the prescription of a medical practitioner. Reputable pharmacists welcome this proposal, and Dr. W. Ernest Jones, who recently drew attention to the necessity of some steps being taken in this direction, is in full accord with the Board's suggestions. The point has been raised whether the regulation goes far enough. That is a question which experience will prove. The policy of the Board is to hasten slowly. A regulation is elastic—it can be modified or made more stringent as occasion demands. Further, the Board's powers can be increased if necessity arises. Careful consideration was given to the proposal, and in the interest of all concerned the action taken is a wise move in the right direction. Freak legislation is not desirable, and American experience has shown that notwithstanding "wild-cat" laws the drug habitue is still able to get supplies. Dr. Jones' report shows that the habit has not assumed the proportions which make it a menace to the community as is the case in America. He states that medical men sometimes become addicted to the use of this class of drugs. Nurses are known to acquire the habit. Pharmacists also sometimes fall a victim to it. These are the people

whose profession or business requires them to handle seductive drugs. Even American legislation exempts these. Then the question of sales by wholesalers has to be considered. The matter requires careful handling, and the Board, in consultation with the Government experts, may be trusted to do the right thing in the interests of all concerned.

Fewer Lysol Cases.

Since the press has refrained from mentioning the word "lysol" in reports of poisoning cases there has been a marked diminution in the number of fatalities and mishaps following the use of this drug. Whether this is a coincidence of not remains to be seen At any rate, the figures show a drop from eight or nine cases a month to one or two. The newspaper proprietors are to be commended on the immediate steps taken to accede to the request of the Pharmacy Board. Their decision has certainly had the desired effect, and this is all the more noticeable when the Victorian figures are compared with those of the other States. In New South Wales lysol poisoning cases continue to occur with considerable frequency, and all the States have more or less the trouble to contend with. It is rather interesting to note in this connection a translation of an article which appeared in *Der Drogenhandler*, dated 25th November, 1912. The article, which is headed "An Endeavour to counteract lysol poisoning," states:— "Hardly a day passes upon which the daily newspapers do not report suicide by poisoning, and almost always the name of the poison is mentioned in prominent type. Amongst these poisons, lysol also appears, but not as frequently as some years ago. Physiologists and Criminologists have frequently drawn attention to the fact that criminal actions are generally imitations of what persons have read in the newspapers, which often enter into the most minute details of the methods employed by criminals. In order to prevent the use of any special poisons by suicides, the Chemists' Association of Alsace-Lorraine has appealed to the President of Police in Strasburg to prohibit the publication of the name of the poison employed, and thus avoid the possibility of the public being made aware of the names of the poisons which have been used for this purpose."

Suicide Statistics.

The Victorian Statist has issued a report of the number of deaths which occurred from violence in Melbourne, Ballarat, Bendigo and Geelong for the year 1912. Suicide by poison accounted for 29 deaths, 27 of which occurred in Melbourne and suburbs. Seventeen of these were males and twelve females. Deaths from firearms numbered seventeen. Only one fatal case of snake-bite was reported during the year. There were eight cases of suicide by drowning, eleven by hanging, and thirteen by cutting instruments.

The Pure Food Regulations.

The Victorian Food Standards Committee has held several meetings during the month, and has practically completed its consideration of the revised standards, which will probably be gazetted at an early date. In the meantime, Dr. Ashburton Thompson's report has been made available to the public. The report of the evidence consists of 282 foolscap pages, and contains all the evidence given before the commissions in the various States. Twenty pharmacists gave evidence. Dr. Thompson seems to have had difficulty in arriving at his conclusions, and falls back on another Interstate conference of experts to decide on the various points which are at issue. The pharmaceutical witnesses seem to have made out a good case for consideration, but Dr. Thompson is rather scathing in his comments on the pharmacists' alleged statutory right to prescribe. This right, he states, has no legislative sanction, but exists merely as a common law privilege enjoyed by all members of the community. He favours, by implication, the adoption of the B.P. Codex, although admitting that the weight of evidence was against it. Further consideration of the regulations requiring the disclosure of the formulae and the labelling provisions generally is recommended. The appendices cover 72 pages in addition to the evidence, and contain a useful synopsis of the salient points brought forward by the various witnesses under classified headings. The report is issued by the New South Wales Government Printer, from whom copies are obtainable.

The Optical Bill.

Representatives of the Victorian Optical Association waited on Dr. Robertson, chief medical officer of the Board of Health on May 10th and asked his assistance in connection with the proposed Optical Bill, a copy of which was handed to him. Dr. Robertson promised to submit the draft Bill to the Minister of Health. He subsequently stated that the Minister had perused the Bill, and would be pleased to introduce the measure in Parliament. Arrangements are now being made for a strong deputation to wait on the Acting Premier (Mr. Murray) to urge the early introduction of the Bill. Mr. Murray has prmised to receive the deputation early in June. The Council of the Pharmaceutical Society and the Board of Directors of the A.N.A. will be represented at the interview.

The College of Pharmacy.

The continued expansion of the work of the College has rendered necessary an enlargement of the present building. Preliminary steps have been taken by the Council to put this matter in hand, and the Lectorial Board is now engaged in formulating suggestions for increased accommodation. Various presidents have referred to the need of a students' common room from time to time. Greater facilities for research work are urgently needed, and the need of an additional lecture theatre has been apparent for some time. The Council is desirous of making the most of the present opportunity, and any suggestions from members will receive careful consideration. It is pleasing to note that during the past month or two there has been a great increase in the number of pharmacists renewing their acquaintance with the College. This is as it should be. The College is the pharmaceutical headquarters, and the staff is always pleased to welcome those who are in search of information, or who desire to renew their acquaintance with their *alma mater*.

Grocers and Dispensaries.

At the meeting of the Council of the Grocer's Association of Victoria held on March 18th, the secretary (Mr. F. A. Hancock) brought under notice the article in the "Age" of that day dealing with the question of dispensaries trading with the general public. The matter was discussed at some length, and it was resolved, on the motion of Messrs. Willis and Bullock: "That this association will have pleasure in assisting the Pharmaceutical Defence Limited in defending the position caused by Friendly Society advancement into the arena of trading with the public."

An Acceptable Invitation.

Messrs. Felton, Grimwade & Co., through the courtesy of Mr. W. Russell Grimwade, have issued invitations to the presidents and members of the Pharmacy Board, the Council of the Pharmaceutical Society, the directorate of the P.D.L., and the members of the Lectorial Board of the College of Pharmacy, to pay a visit of inspection to their laboratories and factory in Spencer-street on Wednesday afternoon, May 21st, at 2.15 p.m. Special facilities will be afforded to those accepting the invitation to inspect the various processes of pharmaceutical manufacturing, and to see for themselves the application of modern scientific methods to meet the growing requirements of the business.

Price-Cutting Unlawful in Germany.

The German Courts have found a ready method to prevent price-cutting, at least on articles which have an established reputation, and are sold at well-recognised prices. A manufacturer of a certain brand of cigarettes brought an action to restrain a retailer from selling below the price fixed in the general contract made with the firm's customers. The Court found that the defendant had infringed the law of unfair competition, and found him guilty first, of injuring the trade of his competitors by selling at cut prices, and, secondly, of causing damage to the plaintiff's business. This principle has been long established in England, and recently a manufacturer secured £300 damages from a retail grocer for losses incurred through defendant selling his goods at cut rates.

A Price Prohibition Movement Needed.

If there is one thing which is likely to be of practical benefit to retail pharmacists it is the establishment of a price-protection as-

sociation. Whilst other businesses are raising their prices to the public, pharmacists have not to any extent been able to take advantage of the position and come into line in the same way, owing to the competition of outsiders in the sale of proprietary medicines and sundries. There is only one method available, and that is the formation of the P.A.T.A. The necessity for a body of this sort in Victoria daily becomes more evident. In New South Wales the P.A.T.A. has conferred a great practical benefit on the craft generally. It has now become well established, and has a number of useful articles on its protected list. Wholesalers and manufacturers now more fully realise the value of a system of fixed rates such as the P.A.T.A. movement insures, and there is every indication that if the P.A.T.A. were resuscitated in Victoria it would meet with keen support from these quarters. The question is, are the retailers ready to respond on their side? Everything depends on this. If they are, then the time is ripe to set about the reorganisation of prices with as little delay as possible.

Grocers' Wages Board.

The master grocers of Victoria recently held a meeting to discuss the proposed claim of employees for a revised scale of wages. Mr. B. Roderick, president of the Grocers' Association, presided. Mr. Howie adversely criticised the proposals, and referred to the proposed limitation of working hours to 48 per week. He said that with the present number of hours (52) it was found impossible to get through the work. The proposed rates ranged from 70/- to 90/- a week for managers, and 60/- a week for storemen and assistants. He reckoned that with the reduced hours and increased pay, the cost of conducting a business would be raised by at least 40 per cent. The meeting resolved that if the Association inaugurated a Defence Fund for the purpose of protecting trade interests, it would have the support of all those present. Commenting on the proposal to reduce the working hours to 48 per week, the *Southern Grocer* says:—"In the consideration of such a demand, one fails to find the slightest excuse or atom of reason for such a restriction being placed on the trade. Fifty-two hours a week for retail shops enforced no hardships upon anyone, indeed it would appear that little or no consideration has been given either to the employers' interests, or to that of the purchasing public. Many traders are at their wits' end under present conditions to carry on their business within the limited hours at their disposal. We cannot for a moment find any justification whatever for such a proposal. From enquiries we have made from the assistants themselves they likewise are at a loss to provide any reason for such action. We are of the opinion that a referendum taken by the assistants would utterly dispose of any such demand being made. Forty-eight hours, we readily admit, is more than enough to those whose duties are carried on in many of the manual trades, the bricklayer, the navvy, or the sewerage man, who earns his bread with a pick and shovel, but to the shop assistant whose duties are lighter and intermittent, we do not believe for one moment that Parliament ever intended such a drastic proposal as this one, the merits of which it will be necessary to ventilate through an appeal."

Testimonial to Mr. H. Shillinglaw.

A meeting of pharmacists was held during the month at the Town Hall Hotel, Melbourne, to consider the question of a testimonial to Mr. H. Shillinglaw on his retirement from active work. Those present were:—Miss Maloney, Messrs. Williams, Hislop, Cossar, Craven, Strutt, Imes, Taylor (W.A.), Hirst, O'Donnell, and Davies. Apologies were received from Messrs. N. Pleasance, Burrows, G. Francis, Merfield, Beddome, Vale, and Ogburn. After some discussion it was resolved to inaugurate a testimonial, and it was decided to invite the other States to join in the movement. An Executive Committee was appointed, consisting of Miss Maloney, Messrs. W. A. Taylor, A. T. Craven, G. Francis, and G. C. J. Davies, to carry out the above objects. It was resolved that all communications be sent to the Hon. Secretary, C/o. Messrs. H. Francis and Co., 280 Bourke-street, Melbourne.

The Executive Committee has issued circulars to Victorian pharmacists, and a number of those interested in pharmacy. A circular letter was addressed to representatives in the various States, inviting their co-operation, and favourable replies have been received from Messrs. Forster (N.S.W.), Young (S.A.), Gould and Holmes (Tas.). These gentlemen have agreed to act as local Secretaries for their respective States. The Committee state that the support already received is satisfactory, and indicates that Mr. Shillinglaw's work during the 36 years he was actively engaged in connection with pharmacy is widely known and appreciated.

The Famous Hunyadi Janos Bitterwater.

A VISIT TO THE SPRINGS.

THE HUNYADI JANOS ESTABLISHMENT 40 YEARS AGO.

Few probably among the visitors to the Hunyadi Janos establishment are unacquainted with the bitter water which the firm of Andreas Saxlehner has been marketing for over four decades, and which has become known all over the world under the name of "Hunyadi Janos."

This establishment, which has been in existence since 1863, is situated in a valley skirted by a row of hills, about an hour's walk south-west of Ofen or Buda, that part of the city of Budapest which lies on the right bank of the Danube. The formation of the water, which takes place in the interior quite near the surface, is due to the geological nature of the surrounding hills and the numerous different strata which compose the valley in which the water comes out of the ground. The valley itself and its surroundings may therefore be called a marvellous laboratory of nature, in which the work is carried on with never-failing power and with absolute reliability and uniformity for the purpose of bringing forth a product unattainable by artificial means.

This valley, comprising about 50 hectares, the property of the firm of Saxlehner, forms a complex, entirely enclosed by a fence and containing extensive buildings, besides 140 wells, each one carefully covered by a small house, which is kept locked, so that it cannot be entered by intruders. The wells are effectually protected against external influences by substantial well houses and cement walls in the upper part of the well-shafts. These wells are about 10 meters deep and 2.5 meters in diameter, while the column of water in the well is usually several meters high. The well-shaft is covered with a hinged lid of aluminium. Through a small opening in the latter

GENERAL VIEW OF THE HUNYADI JANOS ESTABLISHMENT IN 1909.

the suction pipe of the pump is introduced. The ventilation of the well is effected by means of a pipe carried through the roof of the well-house. By the side of the lid is a clay basin, which receives the water pumped up from the well and is connected with a system of clay piping.

Through this system of pipes, which has a gradual descent, the water flows into one of the large underground receiving reservoirs. These reservoirs are enormous covered cisterns, cemented on the inside, the contents of which are forced by means of steam pumps directly to the vats in the bottling rooms. The water in the vats is maintained at such a level that it flows through its own pressure into the bottling machines, and from the latter into the bottles. The firm has constructed and patented its own bottling machinery, which is especially adapted for its purposes. By means of this machinery nearly 100,000 bottles could be filled daily. For hygienic reasons only new bottles are used, and which is 175 meters long, are the tracks of the branch railway, 2.5 kilometers in length, built by the firm of Saxlehner and leading to the station of Budapest-Kelenfold. Thus the water can be shipped directly from the platform of the store-house to all parts of the world. The most scrupulous cleanliness and order prevail in every part of the extensive grounds. A 50 h.p. Diesel motor supplies the necessary power for operating the pumps, the filling and bottling machinery, the machines for manufacturing the boxes, and finally for the electric lighting. Depots for empty bottles, lumber, and other supplies and dwelling houses for the officials complete the appointments of the establishment.

The medicinal properties of Hunyadi Janos, which has been analysed by the foremost authorities in chemistry, such as Liebig, Bunsen, Fresenius, Ludwig, and others, are due chiefly to the large quantities of sulphate of soda, sulphate of magnesia and chloride of sodium which it con-

PACKING ROOM—PACKING HUNYADI JANOS BITTER WATER.

empty "Hunyadi Janos" bottles are not repurchased by the firm.

From the time the water leaves the spring, no human hand touches it, its entire course and transportation being effected through closed conduits and receptacles. Immediately after it has entered the bottle, the latter is carefully corked by machinery; after which it is fitted with a metal cap. The bottles are then ready to have the characteristic label put on, which is divided into three parts, the middle one of which is red and bears the facsimile signature "Andreas Saxlehner." The bottles are then conveyed to the packing room, which adjoins the bottling-house, and are there packed into wooden boxes. The packing and bottling rooms are separated from each other by a glass partition, so as to prevent the generation of dust in the bottling room.

The long store-house adjoining the packing room contains the imposing stock of filled bottles. Immediately adjoining this building,

tains, but in addition to these principal ingredients, a number of other salts found in this water in smaller quantities play an important part in its curative properties.

Regarding the proper use of this water, it may be pointed out that Hunyadi Janos water is adapted either for daily use (which may be continued for months, in the case of chronic sluggishness of the intestines, for which purpose a wineglassful taken in the morning on an empty stomach is sufficient), or for producing single rapid movements of the bowels, in which case a grown person should take 50, 100 or even 150 grams in a tumbler, likewise on an empty stomach, while children should be given comparatively smaller doses. It should not be taken too cold, but should have at least the temperature of the room. The water never disagrees even with weak and delicate persons, and does not affect the stomach, and no constipating reaction sets in when the use of the water is dis-

continued. While taking the water it is not necessary to change one's manner of living, nor to observe any special diet; but any excess of food should be avoided, also fat foods, fruit and alcoholic drinks.

Experience has shown that Hunyadi Janos, when properly corked, will keep for years without losing any of its curative properties. Its bitter taste is not disagreeable, and disappears soon after the water has been taken. For sensitive persons the taste may be disguised by the addition of a little warm milk. The slight aftertaste can be removed instantly by a sip of ordinary water. All this shows that this bitter water is specially adapted for treatment at home, and that it may be taken at any season of the year and without interrupting one's daily occupation.

Hunyadi Janos water is effective in cases of chronic constipation and sluggishness of the intestines, and also in cases of accidental constipation. On account of its carrying-off and dissolving property the water has proved a reliable remedy in cases of derangements of the liver and spleen, and especially in tendencies toward inflammation of the intestines. The water is often of very salutary effect in disorders of the blood circulation, in the organs of the abdomen and in hemorrhoidal affections, and in stomach troubles connected with sluggishness of the intestines. It is of beneficial effect in disorders of the circulation due to the imperfect working of the intestines, especially rush of blood to the head and congestion of the brain, connected with oppression and palpitations of the heart. Its use is also indicated in obesity, gout, and in chronic scrofula. In the tropics, prominent physicians recommend Hunyadi Janos water for affections of the liver, diseases of the stomach and intestines, and malaria.

For many decades Hunyadi Janos bitter-water has been steadily gaining in favour with physicians as well as laymen; and as Hungary's national hero, Hunyadi Janos, in memory of whom the water has been named, was the leader of his contemporaries, so also the medicinal springs of Hunyadi Janos have carried their peaceable conquest through all parts of the world. Each one of more than 100 million bottles which have gone out into the world in the course of years, has been a bearer and propagator of the good reputation which the Hunyadi Janos water has acquired wherever civilised people dwell.

Australasian Pharmaceutical Conference.

Publication of Papers.

The General Secretary of the Conference has arranged with Dr. T. S. Hall, the Hon. Sec. of the A.A.A.S. for Victoria, to have all the papers which were read at the January, 1913, meeting in sub-section B. "Pharmacy," published in the official volume. Dr. Hall has gone carefully through the papers, and has forwarded the MSS. to the Government Printer. He hopes to have the volume issued before the close of the year.

Local Science Committees.

Some of the States have not yet considered this recommendation of the Conference. It is hoped that in each State strong Committees will be formed to encourage pharmaceutical research. In Victoria, the local Committee has already met, and is endeavouring to arrange for a research scholarship to be awarded to a pharmacist. The matter is an important one. There is a large field open for this class of work, and those who are entrusted with the training of young pharmacists have an excellent opportunity of encouraging them in the right direction. Steps might be taken to place before the various Governments the desirability of making some provision for students of ability to undertake research work under the direction of the Local Science Committee.

National Insurance.

The Pharmaceutical Society of Queensland has drawn the attention of all the State Societies to the desirability of concerted action should national insurance legislation be introduced by the Federal Government. The New Zealand Federation of Chemists has been asked to call a meeting to discuss the question. South Australia has referred the matter to the local P.D.L., and the President (Mr. W. H. Porter) is in touch with one of the leading Federal members. It has also been decided to ascertain the views of the British Medical Association on the suggestion of concerted action. Tasmania has approved of the Queensland proposal, and has stated that the local Society will be pleased to assist in any action which may be taken. The Pharmacy Board of New Zealand has written to the General Secretary that the members of the Board are willing to afford any assistance in their power. Victoria has referred the matter to the P.D.L., and the directors of that body have accumulated a considerable amount of evidence on the subject. The Pharmaceutical Society of Queensland thinks that the Australasian Pharmaceutical Conference is the most suitable body to take the question up. Each individual State is therefore giving attention to the problem, and when the time comes for concerted action the machinery of the Conference will be put into motion.

Scientific Secretary.

Dr. Sidney Plowman, F.R.C.S. (Eng.), has accepted the nomination of Scientific Secretary, subject to the approval of the various State Societies, and writes that if appointed he will endeavour to carry out the duties of the office to the best of his ability. Western Australia prefers to leave the appointment entirely in the hands of the other States. The other Societies have the matter under consideration.

Government Medicine Chests.

The Health Officer at Darwin (Northern Territory) is arranging to distribute medicine chests, together with a pamphlet regarding the prevention and treatment of diseases, to some 35 or 40 bush stations, mining camps, survey camps, and aboriginal stations throughout the Territory. The attention of the President of the Conference was drawn to the proposal, and he has authorised the General Secretary to bring the claims of the A.P.F. preparation, "Septol," under the notice of the Administrator, Dr. Gilruth.

VICTORIA.

Pharmacy Board of Victoria.

The monthly meeting of the Board was held on May 14th. Present:—The President (C. E. Towl) in the chair, and Messrs. Bailey, Buckhurst, Fleay, Gulliver, Jewkes, and Sayer.

Correspondence, Outwards.—To Mr. D. A. Simpson, Loch, in reference to a complaint made by him.

The Secretary, Vermin Destruction Board, asking for an official definition as to what constituted vermin under the Vermin Destruction Act 1890.

Mr. D. Coventry, Secretary, U.F.S. Dispensaries Conference, forwarding fifteen copies of the Poisons Acts and Regulations, and asking that a copy be sent to each Dispensary.

Treasury Department, U.S.A., asking for a copy of a recently issued publication containing a precis of the various Poisons Laws of the United States.

Customs Department, asking that copies of customs orders and tariff decisions might be forwarded. A reply was received stating that this would be done.

A large amount of routine correspondence was read and minuted.

Letters, Inwards.—Mr. W. M. Jewkes, thanking the Board for kind expressions of sympathy in his recent bereavement.

Mr. A. Walter, Lang Lang, stating that there was no truth in the complaint made that he sold Cocaine contrary to the provisions of the Poisons Act.

An intimation was received that a branch business was being carried on under the control of an unqualified person. The Acting-Registrar said that the matter had been investigated, and a registered pharmacist found to be in charge of the business.

Victorian Disinfectant Manufacturers' Association, asking the Board for an interview in order that fresh proposals with regard to the scheduling of 3 per cent. Carbolic Acid preparations might be submitted.

From the proprietors of Lysol, drawing attention to the action of the Pharmaceutical Association of Alsace-Lorraine in asking the police to prohibit the publication of the names of poisons used in cases of suicide, and so forth.

Chief Inspector, Vermin Destruction Act, stating that the following had been proclaimed vermin in Victoria under the Vermin Destruction Act 1890:—Foxes, dingoes, domestic dogs gone wild, wombats, rabbits, starlings, and sparrows (in certain districts).

Crown Law Department.—Bringing under notice the following rider by the Deputy Coroner at Benalla, in reference to a death from strychnine poisoning: "I think that in the interest of public safety, poisons should not be sold to any person unless a guarantee is given that it will be kept under lock and key." Resolved that a reply be sent, that in the opinion of the Board, the proposal was not practicable, and that provision already existed in the Act for proceeding against persons carelessly using poison.

Application for Registration.—The following applicants were registered:—Jack J. Digby, Richmond, and Charles Vivian Rees, Albert Park, passed Final Examination in Victoria. John G. Cruickshank, Melbourne, and Frederick S. T. Sare, Albert Park, Certificate, Pharmaceutical Society, Great Britain. Leon Horwitz, Fitzroy, applied for registration on a Pennsylvania diploma, and submitted declarations and documentary evidence in support thereof. Resolved that the applicant be registered on his passing the Final Examination.

Alfred Michael Steinthall applied, as the holder of a diploma from the University of Copenhagen, for registration in Victoria. Resolved that he be registered on passing the Final Examination.

Apprentices' Indentures Registered.—Basil Besemeres to H. W. Morris, Ballarat; James E. Crimmins to F. G. A. Barnard, Kew; Geo. Henry Kendall to S. H. Blake, Footscray.

Examination Regulations.—Mr. Sayer said that he would postpone his motion until the next meeting, as the pressure of other business was so great. Mr. Towl said that the Board, in dealing with the regulations, might consider the advisability of raising the registration fee of £2 2s. in the case of British and foreign applicants. The Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain charged Victorian pharmacists £10 10s. to register them in England, and he thought that holders of outside certificates should at least pay £5 5s. for registration. The matter was referred to the president and acting-registrar to bring up a report at the next meeting.

Additions to Poisons Schedule.—The president said that the committee appointed at the last meeting had met, and decided to recommend that at present it would be inadvisable to schedule antefebrin. The committee also recommended that the following regulation be submitted for the approval of the Governor-in-Council:—

"The following poisons, namely:—

Choral Hydrate, and solutions and preparations thereof;

Cocaine and its Salts, and all solutions and preparations;

Diethyl barbituric acid, and other Alkyl, Aryl, or metallic derivative of barbituric acid, whether described as Veronal, Proponal, Medinal, or by any other trade name, mark or designation; and all poisonous Urethanes and Ureides;

Heroin and its salts;

Morphine and its salts;

Paraldehyde;

Sulphonal and its homologues, whether described as Trional, Tetronal, or by any other trade name, mark or designation;

(except when sold by wholesale dealers in the ordinary course of wholesale dealing, when an order in writing signed by the purchaser has been given for the supply of the same) shall not be delivered (whether in pursuance of a sale or otherwise), except on the written prescription or order of a duly qualified medical practitioner."

The President said that the regulation had been approved of by Dr. W. Ernest Jones, Inspector-General of the Insane. It was now in the

hands of the Government, and if passed by the Crown Solicitor would no doubt be gazetted at an early date.

Mr. Jewkes moved, Mr. Buckhurst seconded, that the report of the Committee be received and adopted.—Carried.

Deputation from Phenyle Manufacturers.—Messrs. F. A. Hancock and J. Coglan, representing the Victorian Disinfectant Manufacturers' Association, waited on the Board, accompanied by Mr. Albert H. Koch, analyst, in order to further discuss the question of placing 3 per cent. preparations of carbolic acid on the Poisons schedule. Mr. Hancock said that since the last meeting the Association had had 21 samples of phenyle analysed in order to ascertain the percentage of Carbolic Acid and Homologue thereof. He handed the Board the result of the analyses. His Association suggested that the percentage be fixed at 6 per cent. instead of 3 per cent. as was proposed. Mr. Towl said that the result of the analyses showed that if the Board adhered to its determination to schedule 3 per cent. preparations, only two of the twenty-one samples would be affected. Mr. Coglan said that some allowance must be made for variations in temperature. In summer time the amount of Carbolic Acid present would be greater. The manufacturers wanted some margin to work on. Mr. Towl said that even allowing for this the analyses showed that 3 per cent. gave an ample margin. The deputation's own figures were against them. In any case the variation in the percentage of Carbolic Acid could be overcome by chemical means. Similar regulations were in force in Great Britain and New South Wales, and the Board had only deferred gazetting the regulations in Victoria until the manufacturers of Phenyle had had an opportunity of stating their case. Mr. Bailey drew attention to Dr. Ham's evidence before Dr. Ashburton Thompson in regard to the use of special containers for disinfectants. There was a probability that the standard would be raised in Victoria. Mr. Hancock said they wished to have a margin under the Poisons Act in case the standard was raised. Mr. Buckhurst asked if the Association would be satisfied with 4 per cent. Mr. Hancock said it would. Mr. Towl said that on the figures he thought 4 per cent. would leave ample margin. However, the Board would further consider the matter, and before having the regulation gazetted, would apprise the Association of its terms. The deputation then withdrew.

June Examinations.—Arrangements were made for conducting the Final Examinations, commencing on June 10.

Erasure of name from Register.—Michael Henry Cormack, Queen street, Brisbane, deceased.

Police Reports in connection with poisoning cases were minuted. The following cases were reported:—Lysol (3), Strychinine (3), Paris Green (1), Phenyle (1).

In one case the bottle of Lysol only bore the label of a firm of wholesale druggists. Although the police had made inquiries, they were unable to ascertain the retail channel through which the poison had been obtained.

The Hon. Treasurer submitted the monthly financial statement, and after the transaction of routine business the meeting adjourned.

Pharmaceutical Society of Australasia.

The monthly meeting of the Council was held on May 7th. Present:—The President (Mr. A. R. Bailey) in the chair, and Messrs. Champion, Cossar, Kernot, Owen, Pickford, Rankin, and Taylor. Apologies from Messrs. Francis, Imes, and Strutt.

Correspondence.—To R. H. Cowl, Bairnsdale, informing him that his name had been transferred to the Life Members' list. E. Norton Grimwade, *re* honour board for names of winners of the President's pharmacy prize. F. C. Needham, outlining the suggested additions to the Optical Bill to conserve the interests of pharmacists. The British Pharmaceutical Conference, stating that Messrs. R. P. Francis and T. P. Isaacs would represent the Society at the jubilee meeting of the Conference. T. E. Turner and John Wilson, informing them that they had been elected members of the A.P.F. Committee. The Secretary reported that circulars had been printed and distributed to chemists in business, and assistants, bringing under notice the claims of the Society.

Letters Inwards.—Sydney University, applying for copies of back numbers of the *Journal of Pharmacy*, which the Librarian stated were of great value to pharmacy students attending the University. It was resolved that the copies asked for be forwarded. E. Norton Grimwade, acknowledging receipt of letter *re* honour board, and stating that he would be proud to see his name inscribed with the twelve others who had won the President's pharmacy prize since 1881. The solicitor returned the various documents relative to the transfer of the *Journal of Pharmacy*, with an intimation that the matter was now complete. R. H. Clyne, Warrnambool, acknowledging receipt of diploma, and stating that he looked forward to getting the *Journal* each month. Applications for exemption were received from two students who were unable to attend the lectures owing to serious illness. Resolved that the exemption be granted in each case. Mr. C. E. Towl, accepting position on Local Science Committee. Mr. Sidney Plowman, thanking the Council for nominating him for the position of Scientific Secretary to the Australasian Pharmaceutical Conference. The Registrar, Pharmaceutical Council of Western Australia, in reference to Mr. Cowley's resignation, and stating that the Council was quite willing to leave the matter in the hands of the other Societies. R. C. Cowley, Pharmaceutical Society of Queensland, forwarding replies received from the different Societies to his previous letter, drawing attention to the possibility of the introduction of legislation in Australia dealing with medical benefits. Resolved that the correspondence be forwarded to the P.D.L. Several country members of the Society wrote asking if it would be possible for them to take up the Optical course by correspondence, on paying the usual fees and attending the examinations in Melbourne. It was resolved, on the motion of

Mr. Kernot, seconded by Mr. Rankin, that the letters be referred to the Optical Committee, to be dealt with as early as possible.

Resignation of Mr. E. T. Church.—A letter was received from Mr. Church, tendering with regret his resignation as a member of the Council, owing to the present unsatisfactory state of his health, but assuring the Council of his continued interest in all matters connected with pharmacy. Mr. Bailey said that Mr. Church's resignation would mean a severe loss to the Council. Mr. Owen said that Mr. Church had always been one of the working members, and the thanks of the Society were due to him for what he had done. Mr. Kernot moved, and Mr. Rankin seconded, that Mr. Church's resignation be accepted with regret, and that the Council place on record its appreciation of his past services. The motion was supported by all the members present, and carried unanimously.

Free Spirit for Hospitals.—The Council discussed the effect of a recent order allowing the use of denatured Australian spirit in public and private hospitals, duty free. Mr. Pickford said that in South Africa, chemists obtained rectified spirit at a much lower rate of duty than was ordinarily paid, and he thought the matter should be followed up. Mr. Rankin said it would be a mistake to object to what had been done. Further consideration was postponed pending some inquiries being made by the Secretary.

Election of New Member.—Mr. Arthur E. Sayer, Bendigo, was balloted for and elected a member.

Audit of Accounts.—Mr. Champion, in accordance with notice of motion, moved the rescinding of a clause in the minutes of March 5th in reference to the quarterly audit. He said that the minute was incorrect, as the matter was only discussed, and no definite decision was arrived at. Mr. Owen said that matters had now been placed on a new basis. Fresh account books had been opened, and with the system now in operation he thought it would be a waste of money to have a quarterly audit. Mr. Kernot suggested that a half-yearly audit might be desirable. The Secretary said that it would lessen the work at the end of the year if the audit was half-yearly. Resolved on the motion of Mr. Champion, seconded by Mr. Kernot, that the accounts be audited on 30th June next, and thenceforward half-yearly.

Delegates to Optical Committee.—Messrs. Bailey, Cossar, and Imes were appointed to represent the Council on the Optical Committee.

Extension of College Building.—The President said that it was desirable that some action should be taken to extend the present building. He had asked the Lectorial Board to outline what the requirements of the staff were in the way of additional accommodation, and he had been informed by Dr. Plowman that the question was now under consideration by the Lectorial Board. Mr. Owen said he fully concurred in the proposal, and he thought that if the Finance Committee were appointed to go into the matter, and report to the Council at a later date, it would meet the case. A motion to this effect was put and carried.

Dispensaries' Conference.—The Secretary reported the result of the Conference with the Dispensaries. Mr. Bailey, who was to have represented the Society at the further conference on May 14th, would not be able to be present. Resolved that Mr. Rankin be appointed to represent the Society in his place.

Election of New Member of the Council.—Mr. Rankin moved, Mr. Owen seconded, that Mr. E. H. Leete, Malvern, be elected to fill the vacancy on the Council caused by the resignation of Mr. Church. The motion was carried unanimously.

General Business.—The President reported that the students of the College had paid a visit to Messrs. Griffiths Bros.' factory during the month. The visit was most interesting, and he moved that a letter of thanks be sent to Messrs. Griffiths Bros. for their kindness in the matter, and also for the specimen of cocoa fruit they had presented to the museum.

On the motion of Mr. Bailey it was resolved that a letter of congratulation be sent to the five pharmacists who had succeeded in passing their medical degrees at the Melbourne University, last month.

The Hon. Treasurer submitted the monthly financial statement, and after the transaction of general business the Council adjourned.

Lectorial Board, Melbourne College of Pharmacy.

A meeting of the Board took place at the College of Pharmacy, Wednesday, April 23rd, at 11 a.m. President Mr. A. W. Craig, M.A., in the chair, Dr. Cole, Mr. Turner, and Dr. Plowman, Hon. Secretary.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed.

The chief business of the meeting was to consider a letter from the Secretary of the Pharmaceutical Society of Australasia, stating that the Board and Mr. C. E. Towl (President of the Pharmacy Board, Victoria), had been constituted as a local Science Committee. The Lectorial Board was also invited "to submit a list of requirements of the College in the way of additional accommodation, as it is proposed shortly to consider the desirability of utilising the block of land on the north side of the present building."

After some preliminary discussion, Mr. C. L. Butchers, Secretary to the Pharmaceutical Society, was invited to be present. He kindly consented, and explained that it was desirable that a scheme for the increase of the general accommodation should be speedily formulated by means of an addition to the existing buildings.

Among the suggestions for improvement were the following:—

1. Better furnishing of the large laboratory.
2. A second lecture theatre.
3. A research laboratory.
4. A model pharmacy.
5. Transference of the library and Board room to the new buildings.
6. Separate "common-rooms" for men and women students.

7. A suitable room for the lecturers.

These various projects were discussed in a preliminary manner, and it was decided to again meet on May 7th.

Before Mr. Butchers retired, he was warmly congratulated by the Chairman on behalf of the Board on his appointment as Secretary to the Pharmaceutical Society of Australasia, and cordially thanked for his attendance at the meeting. The Chairman's remarks were heartily endorsed by the members of the Board. Mr. Butchers suitably thanked the Board for their kindly expression.

The Board again met on Wednesday, May 7th, Mr. C. E. Towl, President of the Pharmacy Board, being also present by invitation.

The Chairman extended a cordial welcome to Mr. Towl, together with the thanks of the Board, for his attendance. Mr. Towl suitably replied.

After considerable discussion, the various recommendations considered at the last meeting were generally confirmed, and in addition it was agreed that an adequate system of heating should be established in the new building, and that if a model pharmacy were established the manufacturing laboratory and the pharmacy proper should be distinct.

Dr. Plowman promised that he would furnish a rough sketch at the next meeting showing how the available area might be plotted out.

It was agreed that the next meeting should take place on May 21st, when the recommendations to the Council should be finally put into shape.

The meeting then terminated.

The Optical Class.

The Optical Course started on May 14, at 8.15 p.m. Mr. Craig delivered the first lecture to a class of twenty students. A number of inquiries were received from country students desirous of undertaking the course by correspondence. These were referred to the Optical Committee, and Messrs. Aird, Needham, Cossar, Imes and Butchers met on May 13 at the rooms of the Victorian Optical Association to consider the matter. After careful inquiry, it was found that no one was available to take up the work. Neither of the lecturers had the time; and a gentleman who conducted a correspondence course last year had had to give it up owing to ill-health.

DENTAL.

Dental Board of Victoria.

The ordinary monthly meeting of the Board was held on April 18.

The chair was occupied by the President (Dr. Springthorpe); also present Mr. Elvins, Mr. Hall, Mr. Iliffe, Dr. Philpots, Dr. Yule.

The minutes of two previous meetings were read and confirmed.

The Under-Secretary (Mr. W. A. Callaway) wrote that at a meeting of the Executive Council, held on the 10th of March, 1913, Messrs. J. E. Nihill and Robert J. B. Yule were appointed to be members of the Dental Board of Victoria, for a period of three years from the 1st of March, 1913, and notification to this effect appeared in the "Government Gazette" on the 19th of March.

Election of President.—Dr. J. W. Springthorpe, M.A., M.D., was unanimously re-elected to be President of the Board for the current year.

Election of Hon Treasurer.—Mr. John Iliffe was unanimously re-elected to be Hon. Treasurer of the Board for the current year.

Gold Buyers Acts.—It was resolved to hold a deputation to the Attorney-General (the Hon. Drysdale Brown), to discuss with him the provisions of the Gold Buyers Acts as affecting the interests of dentists, and with a view to safeguarding their rights and privileges.

Prosecution.—The Registrar reported the result of the prosecution of J. T. Tunnock, for using the title of "Dr.," at the Court of Petty Sessions, Melbourne, on the 18th inst. The defendant was convicted, and fined £5 and £3 3s. costs.

Attention was called to a further case of alleged infringement of the provisions of the Dentists Acts. The registrar was instructed to look into the matter, and report to the next meeting of the Board, or to take proceedings earlier, if the circumstances demanded immediate action.

Correspondence was minuted, and the Board adjourned.

NEW CUSTOMS ORDERS.

Use of Methylated Spirits—Under a Customs Order passed in 1908, bay rum, dry shampoo, brilliantine and hair washes were deemed to be liniments, in the preparation of which the use of methylated spirits was not allowed. The order was amended on April 17, by omitting bay rum and removing the embargo as to the use of methylated spirits in its manufacture.

Veterinary Medicines—By Order 1645 of April 17, 1913, where liniments or veterinary medicines made in Australia contain methylated spirits, the containers must have a label affixed to the bottle, stating in clear and prominent characters—"This preparation contains—per cent. by volume of methylated spirits."

Denatured Spirit for Use of Hospitals, etc.—Order 1454 states that Spirit, methylated by the addition of 1 per cent. of absolute phenol, may be delivered free of duty for the use of Public Hospitals.

Spirit, methylated by the addition of 5 per cent. of approved wood naphtha, may be delivered free of duty for the use of Public Museums.

Spirit, methylated by the addition of not less than 5 per cent. by volume of pure methyl alcohol, may be delivered free of duty for the use of Universities.

An amending Order, of March 4, 1913, confines the exemption to denatured Australian spirit only, but includes "private hospitals in instances where the Collector is satisfied as to the *bona fides*." The spirit is used for operating purposes. Only registered private hospitals may participate in the concession. If imported spirit is used full tariff rate must be paid.

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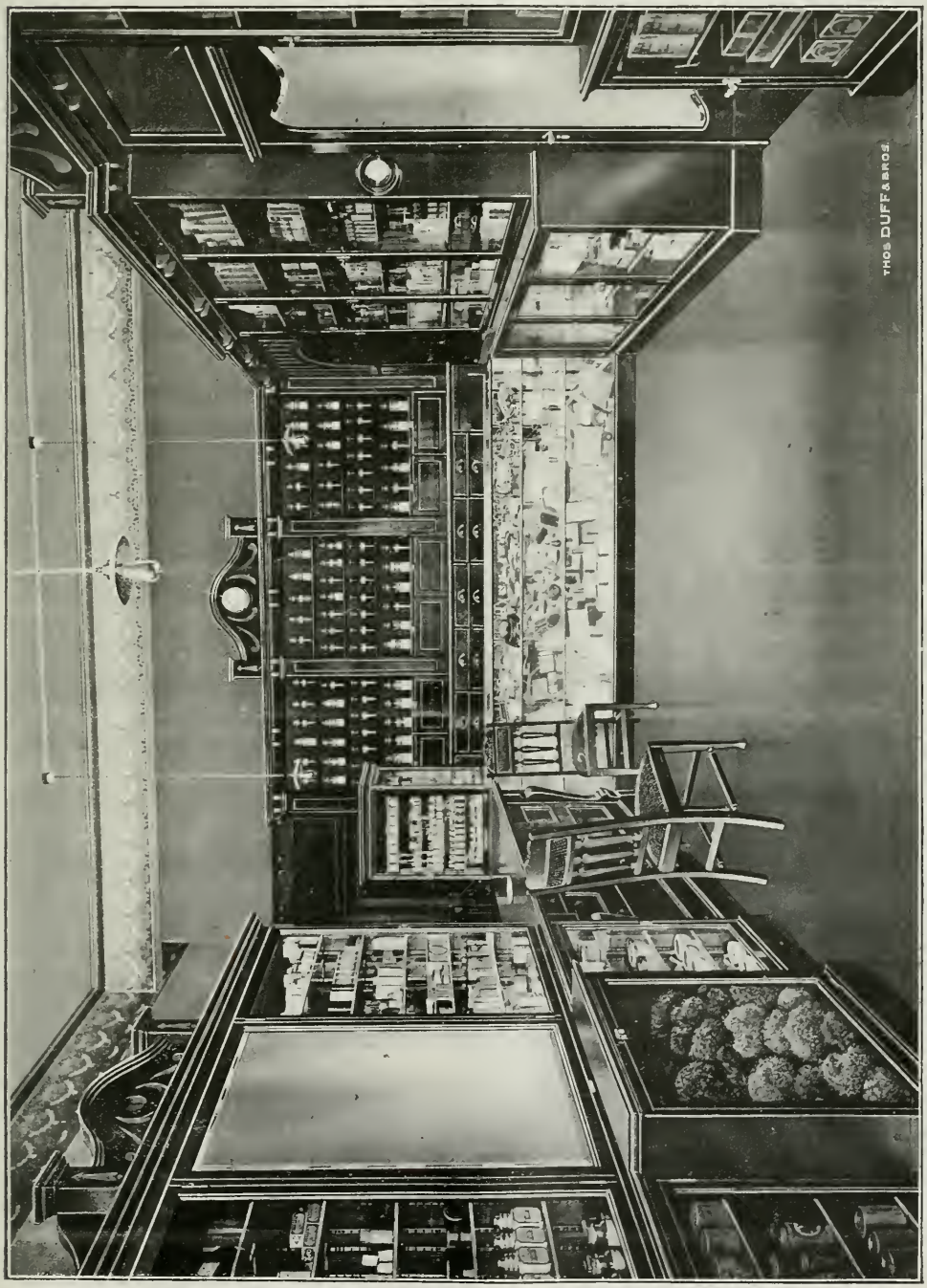

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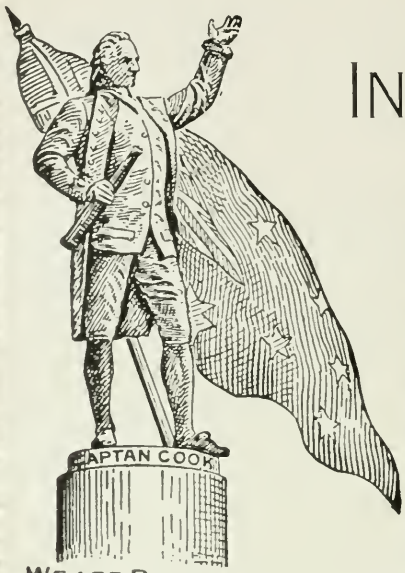

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Conference with Dispensaries.

A MODUS VIVENDI SUGGESTED.

At the request of the directors of Pharmaceutical Defence Limited a special meeting of the U.F.S. Dispensaries' Conference was held at the Melbourne Dispensary, Bowen-street, on Saturday evening, April 28th, under the presidency of Mr. P. H. Webb, for the purpose of discussing, in a friendly way, certain points which have arisen in connection with the dispensary movement. About 25 representatives of the various dispensaries were present.

Messrs. F. Buckhurst (chairman), C. E. Towl (director), and C. L. Butchers (secretary) attended on behalf of the P.D.L.

The items set down for discussion were:—

(1) "Cash selling" beyond the provisions of the Friendly Societies Act;
(2) Definition of "medical or surgical appliances";
(3) Proposed wages board for dispensaries;
(4) Projected National Insurance legislation.

Mr. Webb, on behalf of the Conference, extended a hearty welcome to the P.D.L. delegates. The pharmaceutical profession was one of the most ancient of all the learned callings. Its history was an honourable one, extending back to the very early days. The apothecaries of old were the first members of the profession, and were always ready to help the sick and relieve the suffering. Any grievance which the delegates had to place before them would receive careful consideration. The dispensaries were also doing a useful work in the community. In this connection Victoria set an example to the rest of the world. No fewer than 60,000 members availed themselves of the privileges offered to them by the dispensary movement in this State, and, with their dependents, probably 250,000 people were interested in the progress of Friendly Society dispensaries. In New South Wales the Government provided a subsidy of £5000 to the central body controlling the four Sydney dispensaries. Victorians preferred to be more independent, and had successfully conducted their dispensaries without State assistance. Each of the thirteen dispensaries was managed by an independent executive committee, and these executives had banded themselves together for the purposes of defence. He was glad to see that the chemists had done likewise, and that their representatives were adopting the common-sense plan of conferring with the dispensaries and laying their complaints before the central body. He would ask the three gentlemen present to state their views, after which the opinions expressed would be discussed by the conference.

Mr. Buckhurst said that the P.D.L. had been brought into existence because experience had shown that pharmacists were a disunited body, not speaking with one voice, and circumscribed by long hours and the necessity of a close attention to their business. The result was an immediate success, and in less than eight months over two-thirds of the chemists in business had become members of the new organisation, of which he had the honour to be president. The P.D.L. was not an aggressive body. It existed primarily to safeguard the pharmacists' interests, and its policy had been to approach all points at issue in a conciliatory spirit. After the excellent reception which had been accorded to him and his co-delegates that night, he felt assured that the views he had to place before them would be well received. He did not come there with any attempt to dictate, because he realised that the dispensary movement had come to stay, but he wished to refer to one or two grievances which chemists had, and which, he believed, were worthy of serious consideration. He desired to discuss the question in a frank and friendly manner. The first item was the selling of goods. The dispensaries were given certain rights by the legislature, but unfortunately for pharmacists these rights had been construed in such a way by a few of the dispensaries that a very grave menace to the future of pharmacy had been created. At the time Parliament gave these increased powers, it was distinctly stated to the Minister that there was no desire to interfere with the business of pharmacists. The dispensaries had banded together for mutual protection, and they were doing a praiseworthy work in providing cheap medicine for the sick and suffering. No one could deny that. But recently, especially in Geelong and Williamstown, the local dispensaries had gone beyond this, and were selling goods at low prices on a large scale, with the result that the competition had become ruinous so far as the retail chemists were concerned. What they feared was, where was this going to end? If they sold medicines and other chemists' lines, why not something else? If patent foods, why not cocoa and tea and boots? The arguments in favour of this were just as logical as they could be. He asked them if the position which was being created was a fair one. Were the means used to safeguard the privilege adequate and sufficient? There were two principles laid down by the Friendly Societies Act:—(1) The selling must be to bona fide members of lodges, and (2) the goods sold must be confined to medicines and medical and surgical appliances. Evidence which had been collected showed that these two provisions had not been so carefully observed as they might have been. Outsiders had been known to obtain goods, and some dispensaries sold a great many things which could not be construed as medical or surgical appliances. Some proper definition of these words seemed to him to be necessary. As to the wages board proposals, that was a matter which had been passed last session, but had been held over by the Minister. Pharmacists had found that the proposals of the assistants were not acceptable, and they had induced the Minister to withdraw the motion appointing a board. The question was, did the dispensaries favour a board,

and, if so, did they claim to be represented on such a board if it were created? These matters provided food for thought, and he placed them before the meeting because he believed that by a mutual interchange of opinion they would arrive at a compromise acceptable to both sides. (Applause.)

Mr. Towl said that he was very pleased to be present, and to receive such a good reception. He was agreeably surprised to find such a capable and intelligent body of men managing the dispensaries. He must confess that his visit had removed several misapprehensions on that point. His only regret was that pharmacists had not appreciated the policy of conciliation before. Had they done so much trouble might have been saved. He would like to refer to one important matter. Before dispensaries came into existence at all there was a Pharmacy Act. Parliament, for the benefit of the public, demanded that any person wishing to practice pharmacy must undergo a long career of training and pass stringent examinations before he was admitted to the register. Furthermore, that qualification, when gained, was a personal one. The Act was so framed that it specifically protected the pharmacists' professional title, and it prohibited what was known as "company pharmacy." Every partner in a chemists' business must be a registered chemist. Although in the case of the Mutual Store a pharmacy was carried on in the one building, it was no exception to the rule. Mr. Buckhurst was simply a tenant, and carried on his business there in just the same manner as he would do if he were in another building. When the Friendly Societies went to the Government and asked the privilege of being ably to employ a qualified chemist to carry on their business, they stated distinctly that there was no intention of interfering with the legitimate occupation of pharmacists over and over again when the matter was discussed in Parliament, and there was a division of opinion as to the addition of the words "or by sale," it was stated that the dispensaries did not want those words inserted. In order to get over the difficulty, Parliament agreed to the words being inserted, but insisted on a limited application being attached to them. Thus arose the restriction on selling (1) to bona fide members only; (2) of "medicines and medical and surgical appliances" only. Were those restrictions being fairly observed? Were perfumery, toilet articles, patent foods, swimming wings, brushware and similar goods, medical or surgical appliances? Not by any stretch of imagination could they be so classed. Yet they were being sold, and sold at cut prices, and the effects were disastrous to the retail pharmacist. He had been informed that the majority of the dispensaries eschewed this class of trading, and he was glad to hear it, because it showed him that the rights of the trading community were being respected. Those who were in business themselves would realise how acute the position had become. It was simply taking the life-blood of pharmacists away, because they could not possibly compete with such unequal competition. The very fact that so many of the dispensaries were opposed to trading proved that they had a fair sense of what was right and proper in their relationship to outside traders. It took a pharmacist about six years to complete his training—four years at least to get through his examinations, and a further two or three years to gain experience before he was fitted to commence business on his own account. Every business cost from 12½ per cent. to 15 per cent. to conduct, and to make a business pay, 25 per cent. on cost must be obtained. Yet those dispensaries which were most aggressive only charged from 5 per cent. to 10 per cent. on cost. The chemist's business was very limited. The turnover could not be increased very much. All he asked for was a fair field and the right to live. But the competition complained of was not ordinary: it went far beyond this, and he trusted that this view of the case would commend itself to the conference. As to the Wages Board, he did not desire to say much. Personally he was opposed to it, because no real ground had been shown why it should be granted, and because he was not going to be a party to a lot of unqualified men securing a footing and jeopardising the rights of those who had the pluck and enterprise to complete their qualification. (Applause.)

Mr. Butchers outlined the legal position as laid down in the Friendly Societies Act and the Poisons Acts. The Pharmacy Board had requested him to bring before the conference the necessity of a close observance of the Poisons Acts and the regulations made thereunder, especially in regard to the use of special poison bottles. The Board's solicitor had given his opinion that when poisons were sold the name of the dispenser must appear on the label. Under the Friendly Societies Act only the registered chemist could sell. The P.D.L. had secured certain evidence showing that outsiders were getting medicine, and that articles were being sold which did not come within the meaning of the Act. He suggested that every purchaser should be required to sign a slip to the effect that the medicine was for the bona fide use of himself or his family. He desired to read a resolution which had been passed by the Grocers' Association of Victoria pledging that body to assist the P.D.L. in every way in its power in its efforts to restrict the encroachment of dispensaries on the rights of the trading community. This action was entirely spontaneous, and he only read it to show that other sections of the retail trade viewed with concern the threatened invasion of their rights. The P.D.L. had been asked to approach the Friendly Societies' Association direct, but they preferred to wait on the dispensaries' controlling body first. Several prominent Friendly Society officials were in sympathy with pharmacists on these questions.

Mr. Towl (in reply to a question) said that medical appliances would include splints, finger stalls, syringes, catheters, douches, or anything which the doctor would order for a sick room.

Mr. Buckhurst (in reply to a question) said that there was no real agitation for a Wages Board. The principal movers were amongst the dispensers.

The representatives of the various dispensaries then spoke. In nearly every case it was stated that selling was kept as low as possible. The safeguards which were taken to restrict the privilege to bona fide members were fully explained. The Melbourne delegates said that no stocks of medicines or appliances were kept. They obtained these things if they were asked for. The Hawthorn representative said that his dispensary had no intention of keeping an open shop. He congratulated the P.D.L. speakers on the admirable manner in which they had stated their case. He believed the points at issue were few, and could be adjusted. The conference was a move in the right direction. As far as the Wages Boards were concerned the dispensaries had been watching this matter, and when the time came their voice would be heard. They would certainly claim representation.

The Malvern delegate stated that no outsider was allowed to purchase. Every member had to produce his lodge book. Selling was confined to British Pharmacopoeia preparations. From what he could see there was not much in dispute. If they could agree on some scheme to stop outsiders getting medicine, and satisfactorily define what were "medical and surgical appliances," the whole problem would be solved. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. Parsons, representing the Fitzroy and Collingwood dispensary, briefly described the methods which operated there. They stocked no patent medicines or appliances at all. If a doctor ordered an article, the patient got it at cost price. That was as far as they went, and they discountenanced selling as much as possible. As far as outsiders were concerned, they used every possible safeguard to prevent it. Theirs was a dispensary pure and simple, and they respected the rights of outside traders. They were opposed to keeping an open shop. The chemist had to live like everyone else, and it was not in the interests of the dispensaries to carry on a business such as had been complained of.

The Brunswick representative said he fully endorsed the previous speaker's remarks. His dispensary had 7000 members, and they were very strict in confining their business to these. They did not sell goods, and he and the majority of the committee were opposed to the practice. He was very pleased to hear the P.D.L. delegates, and he thought their views were moderately expressed and worthy of consideration.

The Geelong delegate said that the intention of his committee was that sales should be made to members only. He admitted it was very difficult to prevent outsiders going in and getting goods; but what additional safeguards could they enforce. There was a notice on the door that the dispensary was for members only. Every purchaser had to state whether he belonged to a lodge. As to swimming wings, they had found that a bad line. He believed in a broad interpretation of the Act, and thought that infants' foods and feeding bottles came within the meaning of the section. As far as proprietary medicines were concerned the grocers cut these lines, and the dispensary had to sell them at low prices. His committee had no intention of selling to the public.

Another delegate drew attention to a rule which all the dispensaries had adopted:

> "Rule 19.—Any member or other person procuring medicine from a dispensary for parties not members shall be prosecuted by the trustees for obtaining goods under false pretences."

If the P.D.L. reported any case of evasion of this rule, the offenders would be prosecuted. Whether the dispensaries should enter into commercialism was another matter which need hardly be discussed that night. The crux of the question was to obtain a definition of the term "medicines and medical or surgical appliances."

Mr. Towl said that was the real point at issue. He was very pleased to hear what had been said, because it showed that the majority of the dispensaries took a broad-minded view of the case.

A delegate from Clifton Hill said that his dispensary would not sell anything unless the book was produced. Every safeguard was taken to prevent illegitimate sales. Their principle was to supply whatever the doctor ordered. He doubted if they should give anything but what the doctor ordered. Sometimes a mother came in and wanted something for the children. Members paid in to their societies £4 or £5 a year, and they were everlastingly at the dispensary for more privileges. They had a little over 4000 members, and supplied them with medicine at 1s. 9d. a quarter. Their cash sales were £500 per annum. They were trying to do the best they could for their members. At the same time he was very pleased to be present to hear the very fair case which had been put by the chemists' representatives. (Applause.) After a further short discussion, Mr. Ditchburn (Clifton Hill) moved, and Mr. Bennett (Hawthorn) seconded:

> "That the executive of the conference meet the P.D.L. delegates and endeavour to come to an agreement on the points at issue."

Mr. Ditchburn said that the result could then be placed before the conference at its next meeting on May 19th, and, if adopted, sent on to the various dispensary committees for ratification.

Mr. D. Coventry (hon. secretary of the conference) said he supported the motion. He had listened with pleasure to the various speakers. There was evidently great difficulty in stopping outsiders from purchasing. Certain safeguards had been mentioned, but these did not seem to be sufficient, and it seemed to him that more stringent measures would have to be taken. The committee could thoroughly thresh out the matter and report to the meeting on May 19th.

Mr. Webb moved that a hearty vote of thanks be accorded to the P.D.L. delegates for their attendance. They were men of the right stamp, and it had been a pleasure to listen to them. The resolution was carried with acclamation.

Mr. Buckhurst responded. He felt very deeply the kind reception accorded to them, and trusted that the conference would result in a better feeling between them. They had much in common, and he felt sure that the better understanding

which had been created was the best for all concerned, as litigation was only a waste of money, and caused a lot of bad feeling. (Applause.) He was convinced that very few dispensaries did sell, and he hoped that as the result of the conference those that were selling on a large scale would respect the wishes of the majority and restrict their cash business as much as possible. He again thanked them for the patient and considerate hearing they had given to him and his co-delegates. (Applause.)

The meeting then adjourned.

FURTHER CONFERENCE WITH U.F.S. DISPENSARIES.

The Executives Confer.

As the outcome of the Pharmaceutical Defence Ltd. delegation to the U.F.S. Dispensaries' Conference on April 28th, a further meeting was held on May 14th at 8 p.m. in the Board Room of the College of Pharmacy.

The following were present:—

Dispensary Delegates:—Mr. P. H. Webb (president of the U.F.S. Dispensaries' Conference); Mr. H. Duncan (Richmond), vice-president; Mr. D. Coventry (Prahran), secretary; Mr. G. H. Parsons (Fitzroy and Collingwood) and Mr. Timewell (Flemington). An apology was received from the delegate from the Brunswick dispensary.

Pharmaceutical Delegates:—Mr. F. Buckhurst (chairman Pharmaceutical Defence Ltd.), Mr. C. E. Towl (president of Pharmacy Board), Mr. D. Rankin (Pharmaceutical Society), Mr. W. H. Elcay (Ballarat Chemists' Association), Mr. A. E. Sayer (Bendigo Chemists' Association), Mr. T. A. Dickson (Geelong Chemists' Association), and Mr. C. L. Butchers (secretary). Apology from Mr. Kernot (Geelong).

Mr. Frank Buckhurst occupied the chair, and welcomed the dispensary delegates on behalf of the chemists of Victoria. He trusted that the deliberations of the Conference would be marked by the same spirit of fairness and reasonableness which had characterised the previous Conference.

Mr. Webb expressed his pleasure at being present, and thanked the pharmacists for the kind reception they had given to their visitors.

Mr. Buckhurst said that the first thing was to discuss what was a fair and reasonable definition of the words, "Medicines and medical or surgical appliances." The directors of the P.D.L. had gone very carefully and exhaustively into the subject, and had obtained a number of opinions from representative and expert sources as to what was the proper interpretation to be placed on the term. The fundamental principle of the dispensaries' right to sell was bound up in the Friendly Societies' Act—first, sales must be to *bona-fide* members of lodges, and second, such sales must only consist of "medicines and medical or surgical appliances." It was the general desire of the majority of the dispensaries not to exceed their privileges in any way, and he thought that if a proper definition were agreed upon it could be accepted as a uniform standard. He would ask the secretary to read the correspondence on the subject. Mr. Webb said he concurred in the course suggested.

Mr. Butchers first of all quoted from several English judicial cases in which an interpretation was sought, as to whether certain articles came within the scope of a "*medical or surgical appliance*." The courts held that the specific articles mentioned, namely, toilet soaps, sponges, shaving brushes, hair brushes, and cloth balls, did not come within that definition.

In all of the opinions there was a general concurrence as to the adoption of the definition—"Any article or appliance used in the medical treatment of disease or injury." This *inclusive* definition was modified in two cases by the addition of the words, "but nothing ordinarily used in a state of health shall be deemed to be a medicine or medical or surgical appliance, notwithstanding that it might in certain circumstances also be used in the treatment of disease or injury." The mere fact that an article was in the ordinary stock of a pharmacist, or was listed as a druggist's sundry, did not make it a drug or a medical or surgical appliance—*e.g.*, photographic goods, hair brushes, toilet soaps, and perfumes. There consequently would require to be an exclusive, as well as an inclusive definition.

The following articles would come within the definition:—Invalids' Food, but not Infants' Food; Breast Pumps, but not Feeding Bottles; medicine glasses, fumigating lamps, strong carbolic and antiseptic soaps (not toilet soaps), finger stalls, boracic wool or antiseptic gauze (but not ordinary cotton wool, which is not medicated unless prescribed), rubber sheeting, sal volatile, tincture of arnica (but not methylated spirit or perfumery, unless prescribed); nasal douches; trusses, rubber bandages, elastic stockings and chest protectors.

Another expert opinion was as follows.—"The following can certainly be so classed:—Acid brushes, air beds, cushions, pillows, etc., antiseptic gauzes and dressings, atomisers, bandages, bed pans, breast relievers, etc., belts (umbilical and abdominal, catheters, clinical thermometers, cotton wool, douches, enemas, eye baths and droppers, finger stalls, G.P. tissue, hot-water bottles, inhalers, ligatures, lint, measures (graduated), oiled silk, pessaries, plasters, respirators, stockings (elastic), syringes, spitting cups, suspenders, throat brushes, tow, trusses, urinals."

"This list is perhaps not exhaustive, but represents all the essential articles that occur to me."

In the opinion of another writer, the dictionary meaning of the word "medicine" should be accepted. This was "anything used for the cure or lessening of pain or disease." Medical and surgical appliances should be interpreted as "any appliance or sundry such as would be ordered by a doctor for use in a sick room." Bearing this in mind, the writer said he had thought the matter over a good deal, and had tried to look at it from a disinterested and broad point of view, and he had come to the conclusion that

bona-fide members of Friendly Societies, and no others, were entitled to expect to purchase through dispensaries goods which came within the definition.

With regard to proprietary medicines, these should broadly be restricted to such as were generally prescribed by medical men.

Under medical and surgical appliances, would be classed, air cushions, medical batteries, belts, bougies, antiseptic dressings, lint, enemas, oil silk, bandages, bed pans, catheters, douche cans, elastic silk stockings, medicated cotton wool, gutta-percha tissue, medicated plasters, trusses, ear syringes, rectal syringes, infection bottles, throat sprays, feeding cups, urinals, urethal syringes, inhalers, surgical pessaries and chest protectors.

The following goods did not come within either definition, and should not be stocked or supplied by dispensaries:—

All lines of perfumery, toilet soaps, toilet powders, dentifrice, preparations for the hair, shaving soaps, skin lotions, toilet lanoline, valaze, hazeline snow, oatine, and similar skin preparations, bathing caps, feeding bottles, feeding bottle fittings, feeding bottle tubing, tooth brushes, nail brushes, combs, sponges, soothing teats, smelling bottles, hair brushes, puffs, sponge bags, sparklets, toilet papers, etc., etc., and all proprietary medicines, except those which are generally recognised as entering into the practice of, and are prescribed by, medical men.

One of the largest surgical and instrument makers and purveyors in New South Wales had written, stating that a liberal definition would be—"Medical or surgical appliances are such as are ordered in individual cases by a medical man to a patient for a specific complaint."

Mr. Butchers said these were all opinions of the leading authorities. The writers had not been seen. They were written to and asked briefly to define the term in question. He had consulted a number of experts and without exception their interpretation of the words in the Friendly Societies Act ran on similar lines.

The chairman said that only during the past week a large firm of hairdressers in Geelong had written complaining of the local dispensary selling Egyptian hair-dye. Two relieving dispensers had informed him that there were hardly any precautions taken at the Geelong dispensary to restrict selling to members, and that cash trading to anyone was encouraged. He felt certain that the greater number of the dispensaries would oppose this unfair competition, and he, for one, would be bitterly disappointed, after their two friendly conferences, if the Executive did not boldly take this matter up, and in the best interests of all concerned, endeavour to have it stopped. (Applause.)

Mr. T. A. Dickson (Geelong) said:—

Before proceeding to the objects of this meeting I would like to congratulate Messrs. Buckhurst, Towl and Butchers on the very able and temperate manner in which they stated their case at the last Conference. There was a ring of reasonableness through the whole of the proceedings of the conference that did one good to read. I would also like to express my thanks to the Friendly Society Delegates for the tolerant and patient hearing they gave the chemists. I can assure those gentlemen that the Chemists of the whole State feel that their just grievances are being heard by a body who will look at the various sides dispassionately and with a desire to the best of their ability, to arrive at a fair decision. I was pleased to see by the evidence of several of the speakers that there are a number of dispensaries carrying on their work purely and solely as dispensaries—namely, the dispensing of medicines, sick and medical comforts to their members, without becoming in any sense of the word "trading concerns."

This acceptance of a broad interpretation of the Friendly Society Act is, I think, just, and nothing more, than what was intended by Parliament, for it was most careful to provide that Friendly Society funds should not be used for ordinary trading purposes. In this view I am backed up by many prominent members. I am sorry the Geelong delegates are not present tonight, because I have the unpleasant duty of sounding a note of discord. The Geelong dispensary, in which I am naturally more interested than any other, is now and has been, right from its inception, a "Trading concern." Take the item "water wings," admitted by its delegate at the last meeting; had these water wings been brisk sellers, the Geelong Dispensary would still be selling them, and at such a price that the ordinary trader could not compete. I will give you another example, Cailler's Chocolate is sold by confectioners at 6d., yet you can buy that at the Geelong Dispensary for 5d. Similarly, diamond dyes, hair and hat dyes, perfumery, face powders, scented soap, sponges, etc. Our customers frequently state that they have made purchases at the dispensary, and when challenged as to their membership state that they don't belong to it. This is the experience of all the Geelong chemists, and not individual cases? The notice on the door and other parts of the dispensary has only been a recent affair. I will give you another example of the trading at Geelong. A wealthy man, not connected with the dispensary, uses an alcohol cooking stove in his house; the methylated spirit used by him for it *is all bought at the dispensary* by his maid, who is a member. The whole interior of the dispensary is hung with goods for sale. That it is a pure trading institution, one has only to view the interior of the building to remove all doubt.

Now, you ask what remedy can I suggest, or how can the dispensary authorities carry on, dealing fairly with their members—yet keeping in harmony with the Act given to them by Parliament. To my mind, there are two ways open. One is to cease all trading and supply only medicines, sick and medical comforts ordered by your medical men, *receiving no payment from any individual*, but making it a charge in their levy against the lodge to which the individual belongs. This is clearly the true spirit of their work. The other has some complications, but I think could be put on a workable basis. The Societies make their revenue in the following manner:—First, as in the case of Geelong, by a joining fee, then by levy; such levy paying all salaries, wages, rent, and other working expenses, and selling to its members at practically

wholesale prices. Now, assuming that the dispensaries have come to stay, and they are to continue in the lines of *"trading institutions."* I would suggest that their trading be done on the same basis of profit as other traders, allowing the extra profit made to reduce their levied contributions. Then I maintain you will be charging your working cost at the right end. Now to illustrate what I mean, take the purchaser of a 6d. chocolate at 5d. The working cost of the transaction is paid out of the levied contributions of the members, and not from the actual individual sale, and the same takes place with all sales transacted, giving to the dispensary a very unfair advantage over all ordinary business people. Take the example of the methylated spirit above referred to. *The levied funds of the societies are supplying that man with his cheap spirits* at a price with which no ordinary dealer could compete.

Finally, I maintain that the class of trading done by the Geelong Dispensary is beyond the powers of the Act. It has met with success entirely by the stress of numbers against the disorganised opposition of other traders.

I know, of my own knowledge, that persons who are not members purchase goods at the dispensary. A girl in my employ has often bought perfumery there. She has never been asked if she were a member. Vibrona wine, which costs 44s. a doz., is sold at 3s. 9d. a bottle. The local grocers find they cannot sell at these rates, and their customers go to the dispensary. Is this a fair state of things. The following appeared in the front of the member's lodge book:—

NOTICE.

Re Members' Purchasing Privileges.

"Members are informed that in addition to the whole of the free benefits, they are also entitled to purchase at the dispensary in the ordinary way, any drug, chemical, patent food, mixture, or any other article they may require, and the same will be supplied to members only at wholesale rates."

The other dispensaries cannot be aware of the large amount of trading which goes on at Geelong. Fellow's Syrup, which costs 4s. 6d., is sold at 4s. 8d. or 4s. 9d. I sincerely trust the more moderate dispensaries will use their influence with Geelong, and that that institution will come into line. I speak earnestly and sincereiy, and not in any carping spirit, when I affirm that the Geelong dispensary is going outside of its rights and taking up an attitude which brings discredit on the dispensary movement generally.

Mr. Webb: You have stated a plain case. Evidently the Geelong traders have a great grievance.

Mr. Dickson: I can assure you, Sir, they have.

Mr. Webb said that he had listened with astonishment to Mr. Dickson's remarks. If the Geelong dispensary sold chocolate and methylated spirit, and the other things mentioned, it was a disgraceful state of affairs, and ought not to be tolerated. He had given the matter a great deal of thought. As the head of the Melbourne U.F.S.D., he had talked the matter over with their head dispenser, and they had drafted the following definition, which he thought expressed the views of both Collingwood and Richmond, although he had not discussed the matter with those delegates. The definition was:—

"Any substance or instrument designed or manufactured with the object of alleviating, assisting to alleviate, or to relieve sickness or suffering."

That would include such things as wools, lints, gauzes, silk, plasters, serums, bandages, enemas, syringes, douches, trusses, thermometers, throat sprays, etc.

Mr. Parsons (Fitzroy and Collingwood): I am quite in accord with that definition.

Mr. Webb: As far as Melbourne is concerned, we practically do not trade at all. If a doctor orders anything we get it. We have nearly 7000 members, and our sales last year only amounted to £20.

Mr. Parsons said that the Fitzroy and Collingwood dispensary was probably the largest in the world. It had close on 11,000 members. They did not trade—they stocked nothing, but if a doctor ordered an article they procured it for their member at cost price. Even this they did not encourage. His executive realised that "live and let live" was the proper motto to adopt. He regretted to hear such a state of affairs existed in Geelong. The chemists had the remedy in their own hands. They ought to bring about a prosecution. The law was explicit, and if it was being broken then no sympathy should be shown to the offenders. The executive of the Conference had no power to dictate to the dispensaries, but he felt sure they would use every influence to keep the class of trading spoken of within proper limits. It seemed to him that Geelong, Williamstown, Flemington, and perhaps Hawthorn, were the only dispensaries which went in extensively for selling. He thought Geelong was going quite outside what dispensaries ought to do. With 11,000 members the sales at his dispensary were only about £50 per annum. He would use every possible means to have this matter settled on a satisfactory basis.

Mr. Towl said that no matter from what aspect they viewed the Friendly Societies Act, it was very explicit. The privilege of members was to have medicines supplied free in consideration of levies or contributions, and secondly they were entitled to get a certain defined class of goods by purchase. There was no doubt that the concluding portion of the section in the Act was the definition of how far the privilege of purchasing was to go. The crucial point was—what were medicines and medical or surgical appliances? Could they not have some definite motion on that point, so that it might be placed before the Conference for discussion.

Mr. Coventry (Prahran) said he took it that most of the dispensaries did not wish to go beyond what they were allowed to do as laid down in the Act. They had considerable trouble in getting that clause passed. He took it that the whole of the dispensaries obtained for their members any article which they—a doctor—wished them to have, and charged them for it. He took it also that they charged a small percentage on cost price. Prahran went a little further, and sold anything they might require. He did not think outsiders could purchase at Prahran. It was difficult to prevent members purchasing for

their friends, but his dispensary intended to try and draw up some rule which would have the effect of absolutely preventing this being done. He was sure that all the representatives were in accord in trying to get Geelong, and any other dispensary exceeding its powers, to come into line. He did not, however, see how they could get over the question of selling at low prices.

Mr. Timewell (Flemington) said that his dispensary had 2500 members, and their sales last year amounted to £600. They only sold to members. Their rule was that a member must produce his book, or else must give the number of his lodge and the secretary's name. The dispenser gave the member a receipt and retained the duplicate. They did not stock such things as brushes or combs or swimming wings. They kept a stock of about £220. They sold baby comforters and feeding bottles. Really the matter was left in the dispenser's hands as to what to sell. They always made a small profit on their sales. In his opinion, a place like Geelong ought to be stopped.

The chairman said that a feeding bottle did not come within the definition.

Mr. Timewell asked why should not dispensaries sell them if any other person could sell.

The chairman said that it was because the Friendly Societies' Act limited sales to a certain class of goods. Any dispensary exceeding those privileges was jeopardising the whole movement.

Mr. Webb: Could we sell anything in your pharmacy?

Mr. Buckhurst: Yes, if ordered by a medical man, because the fact of such an order brought it within the meaning of the Act. A feeding bottle in the ordinary sense was not a medical appliance, but if specially ordered by a doctor it then became one.

Mr. Rankin referred to certain privileges in the way of exemption from taxation and banking facilities which dispensaries enjoyed. These made their competition all the more serious from the outside traders' point of view. He believed in conciliation, but at the same time he thought they had a very just case to put before them, and one which he thought even Parliament must recognise, even though they might be numerically the weaker body. He was very pleased at the tone of the debate, and felt sure that the dispensaries had not before realised the extent to which their competition was affecting chemists and other traders. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. Parsons (Fitzroy) said on looking over the Geelong dispensary book he saw that it contained the following Rule:—"Caution. Any member or person procuring or attempting to procure, medicines or any other goods from the dispensary for parties who are not entitled thereto, he may be prosecuted by the Trustees." He did not know if that rule was more honoured in the breach than in the observance, but it was there.

Mr. Sayer (Bendigo) said that, as far as the Bendigo dispensary was concerned, it seemed to be run on legitimate lines. There was practically no "cutting" of prices, and that to chemists was a most satisfactory feature of the institution. They also strongly resisted any attempts to sell goods to outsiders. The secretary (Mr. Laird) had referred to the conference, and had asked him (Mr. Sayer) if the Bendigo chemists had any great grievance. On being informed that they had not, the dispensary had decided not to send their representative down. If a proper definition of medicines and medical or surgical appliances were agreed upon it should remove all the points in dispute.

Mr. Fleay (Ballarat) said that Ballarat pharmacists felt that they had a just grievance. The dispensary had about 5000 members, and their cash sales had increased from £150 to £800. Not only did they cut prices, but they sold shaving creams and had lozenges specially put up for them. It was impossible for retailers to sell at the dispensary prices, and people were constantly coming in and asking the chemists to sell goods at dispensary rates. This had a serious effect on business. He had heard of cases where members bought from the dispensary for outsiders. In one case a medicine was charged at 1s. 6d., when a fair charge would have been 2s. 6d. He had come from Ballarat in a spirit of conciliation, and did not wish to disturb the harmony of the meeting, but he felt he must give utterance to these views. If the more moderate dispensaries would dispassionately consider the serious position created and use their influence with those that went in so largely for this class of business, the trading community would be greatly relieved.

Mr. Butchers said that it was a noticeable fact that the more democratic suburbs, consisting of a poorer population, consistently set their faces against trading. The largest dispensaries were able to carry on without it. Geelong, Ballarat, Williamstown, St. Arnaud, and in a lesser degree Hawthorn, Flemington and Clifton Hill, made cash selling a feature of their work. If the lodge members in districts like Collingwood, Brunswick, Footscray, Fitzroy, South Melbourne, Carlton, and North Melbourne, did not require the cash selling privileges, or did not abuse them, why should the better off suburbs ask for them? The dispensaries which did not sell had evidently very carefully considered the matter, and they had decided it was an unfair form of competition. He appealed to the others to look at it in the same light. Narrow the question down to two issues—first, procure anything ordered by the doctor (even at cost price); second, cut down the sale of other goods, not ordered by a doctor to a minimum, and, third, definitely define what were medicines and medical or surgical appliances. He thought the position might be viewed in a generous light by the dispensary committees, and that any misunderstandings which had arisen in past years might be forgotten. (Applause.)

Mr. Coventry said the matter had now been fully discussed. He would like Mr. Butchers to furnish him with a copy of the report of the proceedings if that were possible.

The Chairman said that if at all possible, a full report would be made available for each member by May 19th.

Mr. Coventry moved that the report of the Conference, as recorded by Mr. Butchers, be forwarded to the Conference on May 19th; that the Conference take the report into consideration and apprise the Pharmaceutical representatives of the result.

Mr. Timewell (Flemington) seconded the motion, which was supported by Mr. Buckhurst, and carried unanimously.

The Chairman proposed a vote of thanks to the dispensary delegates for the patient hearing they had given. He hoped that an amicable settlement would be arrived at, and that in future harmonious relations would prevail.

Mr. Webb responded, and expressed his pleasure at being present. He was pleased to see that Geelong, Ballarat and Bendigo had sent delegates. The executive would place the case before the conference, and the matter would then go on to the dispensaries. He believed a satisfactory agreement would be arrived at.

Mr. Parsons said: We are not out to make money—we are out to succor the afflicted, and relieve the sick and help one another. He congratulated the chairman on the admirable manner in which he had conducted the proceedings, and moved that a hearty vote of thanks be accorded to him and the pharmaceutical representatives for their kindness in inviting the executive to meet them at their rooms. He assured them that the dispensary committees were composed of reasonable men, who would give earnest consideration to the representations which had been made.

Mr. Buckhurst responded, and said that it had been a pleasure to preside at the Conference. There had been a general desire on both sides to discuss the matter from a fair and reasonable standpoint, and he felt sure the same spirit would be shown by the dispensary committee when it came before them.

The Conference then adjourned.

The Report Considered.

The U.S.F. Dispensaries' Association met at the College of Pharmacy on 19th May, under the presidency of Mr. P. H. Webb, to consider the report of the executive. There was a good attendance, most of the dispensaries being represented. Printed copies of the report of the proceedings of the conferences held on 28th April and 14th May were supplied to the delegates. After the preliminary business, a general discussion ensued on the points at issue, and a resolution was carried recommending each dispensary to adopt stricter methods in preventing outsiders securing medicine. Some diversity of opinion was expressed as to what articles dispensaries were entitled to sell. A few of the dispensaries claimed the right to sell anything a chemist stocked, but the feeling of the meeting was that some restriction was necessary. Resolutions were carried and ordered to be forwarded to the P.D.L. for further consideration. Mr. Coventry (secretary) stated afterwards that he thought that pharmacists had done good work in arranging the conference, and that in all probability the sale of druggists' sundries would be discontinued. In any case, much stricter methods would be employed in regard to cash sales. He intended to ask the P.D.L. to furnish a list of what articles it was considered could be sold. A special vote of thanks was passed to the Council of the Pharmaceutical Society for placing at the disposal of the meeting a room at the College of Pharmacy.

Pharmaceutical Defence Limited.

South Australia.

Mr. W. H. Porter, Chairman of the Advisory Board of the P.D.L. (South Australia) has been appointed Senior Grand Warden of the United Grand Lodge of Freemasons of South Australia. Mr. Porter is taking a keen interest in the P.D.L. movement, and is very enthusiastic about its prospects.

Claim against Chemist.

Alleged Careless Error.

A case of interest to chemists occupied the attention of the Port Adelaide Local Court on May 19, when Mary Emma Eichkoff claimed £130 damages from W. H. Porter, pharmacist, 8 Vincent-street, Port Adelaide, for physical pain and severe injuries which plaintiff alleged she had suffered through defendant negligently and carelessly dispensing a certain lotion prescribed for her by a medical man for varicose trouble on one of her legs. Plaintiff, in cross-examination, admitted that she had sent a letter to defendant asking him for £20, upon payment of which nothing more would be said about the matter. Mr. Sinclair, S.M., gave a verdict for defendant, and said that it was clear that the lotion produced in court had not been dispensed by a chemist at all. It was shocking that a chemist's practice should be dragged down and his reputation assailed because of a letter demanding the payment of £20.

Mr. Porter is chairman of the South Australian branch of Pharmaceutical Defence Ltd.

Proposed Branch in New South Wales.

A large and representative gathering of pharmacists was held at the Cafe Francais on Thursday evening, May 8th. Mr. Sydney Mears was voted to the Chair, and there were present some fifty pharmacists from every part of the city and suburbs.

The meeting had been convened to hear an address by Mr. Frank Buckhurst on the subject of the Pharmaceutical Defence Limited, commonly known as the "P.D.L." Mr. Buckhurst, in a speech that lasted somewhat over an hour, outlined the reasons that led up to the formation of this Institution, why it assumed the exact form in which it was launched, and the aims and aspirations that it had in view.

The meeting listened with intense interest as the scheme was unfolded, and hearty applause greeted the speaker at the end of his address. Many questions were asked and satisfactorily answered, and upon a motion being put it was almost unanimously decided to join the "P.D.L." and to make it a truly Federal institution. A Committee consisting of Messrs. Sydney Mears, C. J. Mallam, A. H. Reuss, D. J. Williams, and J. H. Constable was appointed to confer with Mr. Buckhurst, and to master the full details of the scheme, and to take active steps to successfully launch the movement in New South Wales.

The meeting closed with a hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Buckhurst.

Victoria.

The monthly meeting of the Directors was held at the College of Pharmacy on May 14.

Present:—Messrs. Buckhurst (in the chair), Cornell, Francis, Gulliver, and Towl. Apologies from Messrs. Peters and Rankin.

Correspondence.—A large amount of correspondence, both inwards and outwards, in reference to the Friendly Societies' Conference, was read and dealt with. Most of the letters were of a confidential nature.

Messrs. Dickson (Geelong), Fleay (Ballarat), and Sayer (Bendigo), wrote intimating that they would attend the Dispensaries' Conference.

The solicitor forwarded a confidential opinion on several questions raised by a member, relative to Wages Boards and Dispensaries.

A communication was received stating that the British Chemists' Defence Association had entered into an arrangement with a leading Fire Insurance Company, to insure its members through the Association, and allow commission on the premium.

Mr. J. H. Young, Adelaide, in reference to the South Australian branch.

F. P. J. Gray, Bondi, in reference to the Chairman's visit to Sydney.

The Editor, "Chemist and Druggist," forwarding copy of arrangements made by the Dentists in New Zealand, to indemnify themselves against claims.

An invitation was received from Messrs. Felton, Grimwade and Co., inviting the Directors to visit their factory on May 21. The invitation was accepted with thanks.

From the I.O.A., forwarding cheques for £25 9s. 11d., in settlement of commission account.

Credit notes were received from the I.O.A. on account of general insurances effected on behalf of Messrs. Cheshire, Hughes, Hillard, Gough, Lacey, Vale, Lock, Thomson, McGibbony, Bartleman, and Damyon.

Election of New Members.—The following new members were balloted for and elected:—

Hustler, A. E., Unley, S.A.
Main, C. T., Adelaide, S.A.
Dartnell, B. P., South Melbourne.
Longmore, C. F., Melbourne.
Ballantyne, J. M., Malvern.
Stead, W. J., Alberton, S.A.
Mears, Sydney, Bondi, N.S.W.
Mallam, C. J., Randwick.
Williams, D. J., Sydney.
Constable, J. H., Rozelle.
Cobb, J. S., Waverly.
Parker, S. C., Woolhoa.
Jenkins, A. J., Mansfield.

Proposed Branch in Western Australia.—Mr. A. L. Tilley, Perth, wrote asking if the P.D.L. could accept members from Western Australia, and if a branch were established there, what powers would be given to the local Directors. Mr. Tilley was informed that if a branch were established, the Directors in Melbourne would ratify any reasonable decisions arrived at by the local Directors. The manager of the I.O.A. Ltd. wrote stating that a meeting of chemists was to be held in Perth, on May 14, to consider this matter. The Secretary stated that he had supplied all the necessary information to enable the branch to be started.

Conference with the Dispensaries.—The Chairman reported the result of the Conference with the Dispensaries held on April 28th. He said that the delegates had been very cordially received, and the meeting had agreed to further discuss the points at issue at a subsequent conference to be held that evening at the College. He was very hopeful of a satisfactory arrangement being come to. In connection with this matter the Secretary read a number of very interesting letters received from several correspondents, in reference to the definition of "Medicines, and medical or surgical appliances." Mr. Towl said that these letters would be of great assistance to the Directors, and it was resolved that a special vote of thanks be accorded to the writers.

Resignation of Mr. Church.—Mr. E. T. Church wrote, regretting that on account of his ill-health, he was forced to resign his position on the Board of Directors. He wished the P.D.L. every success, and assured the Directors of his deep interest in its welfare. Mr. Buckhurst said that there was no option but to accept the resignation with great regret. He moved that a special resolution be placed on the minutes thanking Mr. Church for the interest he had taken in the P.D.L. movement, and expressing the hope that the time would soon come when his health would be sufficiently restored to enable him to again resume active work. Mr. Cornell seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Appointment of Director.—The Chairman said that he thought that it was very desirable to appoint another country representative on the Board. He thought Mr. H. J. Mewkill, of St. Arnaud, would, if asked, take the position. Mr. Mewkill had always taken an active interest in the movement, and would be an acquisition to the Board. Mr. Gulliver said that he had known Mr. Mewkill for a long time, and felt sure that the Directors would be fortunate if they could secure him as a colleague. It was unanimously decided to ask Mr. Mewkill to accept the seat on the Board.

Military Dispensers.—The Secretary reported that he and Mr. Towl had had a conference with several pharmacists who were interested in improving the position of military dispensers. Some very unsatisfactory regulations had been issued by the Defence Department. A statement of the position had been drawn up, and Dr. Maloney had undertaken to introduce a deputation to the Minister for Defence on the question.

Date of Board Meeting.—Owing to the large amount of business which the Board had to deal with each month, it was resolved that the date of the ordinary monthly meeting be altered to the third Wednesday in the month, so that the whole morning might be devoted to the work.

Chairman's Visit to Sydney.—The Chairman reported that on the invitation of those present at the last Australasian Pharmaceutical Conference, he visited Sydney on May 8, and addressed a large meeting of chemists there on

the work of the P.D.L. He was given a very enthusiastic reception, and after his address a resolution was carried, appointing a Committee to confer with him as to the best means of extending the movement to New South Wales. He believed that as a result of his visit to Sydney, a branch would be established there. Mr. Towl moved that the President's action be endorsed, and that a hearty vote of thanks be accorded to him for his efforts in extending the operations of the P.D.L. Mr. Francis seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously. Mr. Buckhurst said that he had invited Mr. Zions to pay a visit to Melbourne, and address a meeting on the P.A.T.A., and that Mr. Zions had promised to come over as early as convenient. The time seemed opportune to resuscitate the P.A.T.A. in Victoria, and Mr. Zions' experience would be of considerable help in getting the movement started. Mr. Gulliver moved, Mr. Towl seconded, that the action taken by the Chairman meets with the approval of the Board. Carried.

The Hon. Treasurer presented the financial statement, showing a balance of £77 13s. 2d. in the general fund, and £275 in the reserve fund. It was resolved that a further £50 be invested in Savings Bank bonds, and added to the reserve fund. Accounts were passed for payment, and the meeting adjourned.

Conference re Wages Board.

At the invitation of the P.D.L., a conference composed of representative master pharmacists and delegates from the Chemists' Assistants' Association was held at the College of Pharmacy, Melbourne, on April 23, at 8.30 p.m.

Messrs. Bailey, Buckhurst, Francis, Keays, Pickford, Rankin, and Towl representing the P.D.L., and Messrs. Andrews, Barclay, Fox, McFarlane, Nathan, Ware and Wright the Assistants' Association. Mr. Butchers was also present.

Mr. Buckhurst occupied the chair, and said that the P.D.L. had convened the conference because one of its principal objects was to safeguard the interests of registered chemists. It had been called into existence to fill a long-felt want, and at the end of last session the directors found it necessary to organise a large deputation to the Minister of Labour on the Wages Board question, with the result that at the eleventh hour Mr. Murray decided not to go on with the motion. Although the P.D.L. could not speak for the whole of the master pharmacists of Victoria, it numbered considerably over half of them amongst its members, and could, therefore, be regarded as fully representative. During the past three months the directors had taken elaborate pains to collate statistics as to the hours and rates of pay of assistants. From the knowledge thus gained, he could safely say that he did not know of a single genuine case of sweating; indeed, he believed that assistants were as a whole in a better position to-day than they had ever been. There were two important points which the assistants had to consider. First, they all looked forward to being in business on their own account, and any irksome and harassing conditions which the Wages Board imposed would fall on them when they became master chemists, and, secondly, they must not overlook the fact that there were more master chemists than assistants, and as the masters were in nearly every case doing the same work as the assistants, their claims must be considered. Then the argument had been used that because there was a Wages Board in New South Wales there should be one in Victoria. But the conditions in N.S.W. were different, as under the Act there any 25 malcontents in any business could demand a Board, and the Minister was compelled to grant it. And both in Queensland and New South Wales the result of the Wages Board had been to lessen the rates of pay. Had the assistants considered the possibility of such a result in Victoria, in view of the strong evidence which could be produced from the employers' standpoint? There was always the danger of the minimum wage becoming the maximum. The P.D.L. had asked the chemists of Victoria what would be the result if hours were reduced to 48 per week and wages increased £1 per week. Out of 160 answers received, the great majority had replied that they would have to dispense with some of their assistants, as they found it difficult even now to compete with the dispensaries and the grocers. In nearly every case the reply was that it was impossible to raise prices, as it would drive people to the dispensaries. The lot of the average pharmacist was a hard one indeed, and he thought the assistants should be in sympathy with his remarks. The average assistant was in many cases better off than the owner of a business. He put these views before the assistants because he thought they were worthy of earnest consideration, more especially as quite a number of the qualified assistants had stated that they were opposed to a Wages Board in any shape or form. The P.D.L. desired to do the right thing, and they had therefore invited the Assistants' Association to the present conference, because it was felt that a mutual interchange of opinion might be productive of good. He would ask Mr. Andrews to state the case from the assistants' standpoint.

Mr. Andrews said that the dispensary competition was the worst evil the chemists had to fear. New dispensaries were constantly being opened, and it was only a matter of time when there would be a dispensary in every suburb and every important country town. He quoted figures to show how serious a position was likely to be created by the spread of this movement. If a Wages Board were created its jurisdiction would extend to the dispensaries, which would then have to pay the ruling rate of wage. Secondly, he thought that chemists were ruining themselves by internal competition. He mentioned instances where certain suburban pharmacists were indulging in cut-throat competition with one another, and he attributed this to the fact that there were too many chimists' shops for the population. On this premise, he argued that if wages were higher there would be less inducement for chemists to leave positions to start little tin-pot businesses on their own account under the aegis of the wholesaler.

Mr. Keays said that if there were not sufficient assistants available in Victoria there would be an influx from the other States.

Mr. Andrews replied that that would not matter, as a minimum wage would have to be paid to all.

Mr. Buckhurst said that if the Wages Board included dispensaries, then the dispensaries could claim and would be entitled to proper representation on the Board.

Mr. Andrews did not think so, and quoted from certain decided cases dealing with the subject. At any rate, he thought a dispenser was entitled to higher wages, as his work was more onerous and responsible. The Melbourne dispensary recognised this, and now paid their head dispenser £5 a week and quarters.

Mr. Ware said that it was the smaller dispensaries which paid the low wages. He had heard of cases where the dispenser was only paid £3 a week. Was that a fair remuneration for a qualified man?

Mr. Buckhurst said he did not think it was. But, even if the dispensaries had to pay higher wages, he could not see how chemists would be helped. In his opinion it would only result in an increase in cash sales. The P.D.L. was arranging a conference with the dispensaries with regard to the cash selling business. He did not wish to prejudice the position, because he believed the dispensary committees were composed of fair-minded men, who would give impartial consideration to the representations which would be made to them.

Mr. Andrews pointed out that unless the assistants' conditions were improved there would be fewer apprentices than ever. They were hard enough to obtain now. What was the use of the College of Pharmacy? Why did not the Pharmacy Board protect the assistants? So far as the grocers were concerned under the proposed new award, the manager of a grocer's shop would have to receive £4 a week, the second man £3 10s., and the third man £3. At these wages, would any young man take up pharmacy? They must not imagine that the Wages Board would do anything unfair. The assistants knew the difficulties the masters had to contend with. He believed that the board would improve the status of pharmacy generally.

Mr. Buckhurst said that he did not see how the wages could be raised. The board would only result in a lot of harassing and irksome restrictions.

Mr. Andrews: Because the business will not pay a living wage is no argument against a board.

Mr. Pickford: Do you contend a living wage is not being paid?

Mr. Andrews: Not as much as should be paid.

Mr. Keays: Grocers are in a different position to chemists. Their turnover is so much greater. A chemist cannot increase his turnover beyond a certain point.

Mr. Ware: There is nothing to be afraid of in a Wages Board.

Mr. Wright: I have had to work for 25s. a week.

Mr. Keays: But you were not qualified then.

Mr. Andrews referred to the increasing number of unqualified men now employed in chemists' shops. These assistants were a menace to the qualified men. The master chemists were responsible for this condition of things. They were not acting fairly to the qualified assistant. No pharmacist should take on a boy without urging him to complete his course. A Wages Board would endeavour to prevent this. It would restrict unqualified labour. The unqualified dentists who got "recorded" were the product of the master dentists. The whole thing was a policy of selfishness, and the Pharmacy Board and the P.D.L. should be the first to put their feet on it. A Wages Board would also put a curb on the establishment of branch shops. He did not believe in branch pharmacies, and if a chemist wanted to branch out in this direction he should pay more for his labour.

Mr. Buckhurst said that if all vendors of medicine could be forced to pay the same wage there might be something in the contentions raised, but unfortunately the law did not permit of this. The proposed board would only extend to dispensaries and chemists' shops. What would the assistants consider a fair wage?

Mr. Andrews said that the New South Wales award might be accepted as a fair basis, with a higher wage to managers of branch shops and dispensaries.

Mr. Keays: The chemist's position is such that he cannot be compared to other traders. Furthermore, good wages are now being paid, and no good man need be out of a position. The tendency was to voluntarily increase wages.

Mr. Pickford said that competition was continually increasing. There were five chemists in business within half a mile of him.

Mr. Buckhurst said that if the dispensary assistants were dissatisfied why did they not form an association of their own, and ask to have their position improved?

Mr. Andrews thought this proposal was not possible. He quoted the statistics collected by the Minister of Labour with regard to wages at present being paid.

Mr. Rankin said that those returns were not satisfactory.

Mr. Towl said he had listened with close attention to the discussion. Mr. Andrews seemed to overlook the fact that the pharmacist's business was a business of small things. It could not be compared with any other business. It seemed to him that the whole agitation came from the dispensaries and the men who were not qualified and who never would be. He agreed that the qualified man might be worthy of a higher salary, but were they going to hazard their position by bringing a lot of unqualified men in? Were they going to give them a position in the business? He, for one, would not take that responsibility. These men were the barnacles in the profession. The business being such a small one, lots of masters were not earning as much as the assistants. Most businesses were able to pass on the extra expense to the public, but the chemist could not do so. If they recognised these unqualified men the claims for further recognition was bound to come. If a Wages Board could be established for qualified

men only, well and good. All the rest must be classed as shop assistants. It was the only safe plan, and he, for one, could not support the contentions of Mr. Andrews and his association. The business was of a technical nature, and it took years to acquire a proper knowledge of it. The statistics showed that the ruling wage for qualified men was from £3 10s. to £5, and unqualified men £2 10s. to £3. If a Wages Board were appointed it would mean reduced hours and 6 o'clock closing.

After further discussion the chairman thanked the assistants for meeting them in conference. The interchange of views had, he felt sure, been of mutual advantage to both sides, and although no finality had been reached, the merits of the case had been fully ventilated in a friendly talk. As chairman, he felt that the action of the P.D.L. in inviting the conference was a good one, and he desired to express his appreciation at the calm and dispassionate manner in which the subject had been discussed.

The meeting then adjourned.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

Pharmacy Board of New South Wales.

The Board met on May 13. Present:—Messrs. T. M. Snelson (Chairman), W. Short, T. S. Loney, H. S. Brothwood, Ll. P. Williams, and F. Gray. An apology was received from Mr. A. E. Sharpe.

A letter was received from Mr. C. L. Butchers, of Melbourne, with reference to the supply of information in connection with the proceedings of the Board. After consideration, it was decided, on the motion of Mr. Short, seconded by Mr. Brothwood, that it would be inadvisable for the Registrar to send official reports of the Board's proceedings to any journal, and that as the press was freely admitted, the necessity did not arise.

Resignation.—Mr. George Magrin wrote resigning his position as assistant in the office of the Board, owing to his having determined to go on the land. The resignation was accepted.

Pharmacists Registered.—Philip James Bailey, Sydney (passed final examination); Geoffrey Griffiths, Young (pharmaceutical chemist of New Zealand); Alfred Lewis Gideon, Coogee (ph. chemist of New Zealand); John Harrison Jones, Katoomba (chemist and druggist of Great Britain); William Edwin Kernot, Neutral Bay (pharmaceutical chemist of Victoria); John Laybank Glascock, Leichhardt (pharmaceutical chemist of Western Australia); James Noel Robson, Woollahra (pharmaceutical chemist of Queensland); Hugh John Chisholm, Sydney (pharmaceutical chemist of New Zealand), subject to the production of his New Zealand certificate of competency; William Davidson Morrison, Bulladale (chemist and druggist of Great Britain), subject to the production of his British certificate of registration.

Passes Accepted.—Kate McKenzie McLachlan, Leichhardt, asked that her pass of the preliminary examination of the National Institute of Scotland might be accepted in lieu of the Board's preliminary examination; and a similar request was made by Thomas Victor Lascelles Watson, of Sydney—passed preliminary examination of the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland. Both were accepted.

Indentures Registered.—T. V. L. Watson to A. J. Hudson, of Newtown; Kathleen Mona Legg to V. H. P. Olson, of Kogarah.

Lost Chemists.—The Registrar reported that the following registered pharmacists had failed to notify changes of address, and that letters forwarded to them had been returned as unclaimed by the postal authorities:—Mr. Gens Johannes Arucsson, Redfern; John Fullerton Armstrong, Jr., Forbes; John Benson, Sydney; Ethel Marion Coutts Burns, Redfern; Reuben Noah Collins, Sydney; William Serkirk Cottew, Taree; Harold Edward Elphick, Darlinghurst; F. D. Shetliffe, Broken Hill; William Henry Holden, Broken Hill; James Francis Larkin, Sydney; John McKenna, Parkes; Almuth Ludwig Julius Peters, Sydney; George Washington Turner, Liverpool; Caleb James Soden, Sydney; William Frederick Balfour Turner, Sydney. On the motion of Mr. Brothwood, seconded by Mr. Gray, it was decided to forward a registered letter to each, and to call their attention to the requirements of the Pharmacy Act (Sec. 8).

Pharmaceutical Society of New South Wales.

The Council met on May 13. Present:—Messrs. T. M. Snelson (Chairman), W. Short, Ll. P. Williams, H. S. Brothwood, T. S. Loney, F. Gray, and Penrose. Apologies were received from Messrs. Carroll and Sharpe.

New Members Elected.—P. C. Horne, of Newtown, and P. C. Davis, of Camperdown.

Diploma Granted.—A. E. Morrow, Ardlethan.

Scientific Secretary for Pharmaceutical Conference.—It was decided to support the Victorian nomination of Mr. Sidney Plowman, F.R.C.S. (Eng.).

Enlarging the Powers of the Society.—A letter was received from Messrs. Sly and Russell, solicitors to the Council, who were asked to give a legal opinion as to the position of the Society and its powers in extending the usefulness of the Society under the Companies Act. As the opinion expressed showed the Society did not possess the necessary power, it was, after discussion, decided to send circulars to all members, asking their views in the direction of reconstructing the Society for the purpose of extending its usefulness, so the Society would be able to fight matters in Court—a power it does not at present possess.

Indemnity Insurance.—A letter was read from the Insurance Office of Australia in regard to indemnity insurances and the position of the Society as agent for the Insurance Company, stating that the underwriters objected to the Society so acting. Under the present arrangements with the Insurance Company, the Society receives a rebate of 15 per cent. on each premium paid by members of the Society who take out indemnity policies with the Company. As a result of the underwriters' objection, the present arrangement will be cancelled in about September next.

Drugs by Rail.—A communication was received from Mr. Peter Richardson, chemist, of Woomera, in reference to the necessity for sending drugs and medicines to the country by passenger trains, and the awkward position created in this connection by the strike of railway porters. The Secretary reported that upon receipt of the letter he immediately wrote to the Secretary to the Railway Commissioners asking the authorities to facilitate the dispatch of drugs and medicines; and also to the wholesales houses, seeking their co-operation. The strike having come to an end the Railway Commissioners replied that any action was now unnecessary, as ordinary conditions prevailed.

Messrs. F. P. J. Gray and A. E. Sharpe, elected by the Council to make certain tests, reported that they had made investigations in regard to the proposal from the Pharmaceutical Society of South Australia in reference to the uniformity of appearance of the compound mixture of pepsine and bismuth. It was decided to send a copy of the report, together with samples, to the Secretary of the Pharmaceutical Society of South Australia.

Pharmaceutical Defence Limited.

At the invitation of some of the New South Wales delegates to the Pharmaceutical Conference, recently held at Melbourne, Mr. Frank Buckhurst, the President of the Pharmaceutical Defence Ltd., on May 8th, at the Cafe Francais, George-street, Sydney, delivered an address on the benefits to be derived from this new movement, which has played so large a part in bringing the chemists of Victoria into a solid fighting line.

Mr. S. Mears, who presided, briefly introduced Mr. Buckhurst to a gathering of some 50 pharmacists interested in the movement. He said he was very gratified to see such a large attendance in spite of the very boisterous and wet night.

Mr. Buckhurst favoured establishing a branch of Pharmaceutical Defence Ltd. in Sydney, and explained that the Melbourne organisation had a contract with the Insurance Office of Australia, insuring members against risks of wrong dispensing. They received a rebate of 15 per cent. on all premiums paid by members, not only for indemnity policies, but for any risks. He advocated extending the movement throughout the Commonwealth, not in a parochial way, but under one general organisation, so that the chemists of Australia might be brought into one solid fighting line. He was convinced that within a reasonable time a large amount of money would be collected, which would form a splendid defence fund against outside attacks.

It was decided, after Mr. Buckhurst had answered a number of questions, to form a Committee, which would have power to go into the whole matter, to consist of Messrs. Sydney Mears, Charles Mallam, and another. The motion was carried, with one dissentient. A vote of thanks was passed to Mr. Buckhurst for his address.

Food Standards.—The Royal Commissioner (Dr. Ashburton Thompson) appointed to inquire into the question of setting up uniform standards for foods and drugs under the Pure Food Acts of the various States, presented his report a few months ago. Although portions of the report were published at the time, the document itself has not been on sale at the Government Printing Office, owing to its not yet having been laid before Parliament. As, however, it is likely that a conference of Commonwealth officers and officials of the various States will be held shortly for the purpose of considering the report and making final recommendations towards securing uniformity, the Premier (Mr. J. S. T. McGowen) has authorised the Government Printer now to publish this work, in order that traders and others interested may be able to make themselves familiar with the conclusions arrived at by Dr. Ashburton Thompson.

The B.M.A. and Friendly Societies.—On May 7, at the Annual Conference of the Manchester Unity I.O.O.F., Drs. Read, Thomas, and Sands, executive officers of the B.M.A., attended for the purpose of discussing matters at issue between the two bodies. Dr. Read said that the B.M.A. realised that the interests of the two bodies were identical, and they were anxious that the relations should continue to be harmonious. Something should be done to arrive at a definite understanding, as the B.M.A. did not want strife. The country members of the B.M.A. were unanimous in saying that they would not accept less than 26s. without medicine. This was only sixpence per week for attendance upon a man, his wife, and children. Under the National Insurance Act in England a man paid 8s. 6d. annually, with twopence a week for his wife, and one penny for each child. As it was thought that the schedule would prove a stumbling block, it was cut out altogether, and members could make arrangements with doctors. Dr. Thomas said the Association was asking nothing unreasonable. Though the profession was better paid than in Victoria, it was not receiving the amount given in England. Wages were better in New South Wales than in England, so the medical man here should receive his due. It might be true that medical service to a Friendly Society was a stepping stone to higher positions, but why should they not have the services of men of experience by paying them well. Dr. Sands thought that a settlement would mean peace for at least five years. The Grand Master (Bro. White) pointed out that an increase, in every case, had to come out of the members' pockets. Replying to questions, Dr. Read thought that 99 per cent. of the men attending lodges would be prepared to accept a uniform agreement. He believed that if the Societies were prepared to pay 39s. a year, the doctors would wipe out the cost of extra certificates. The trouble was that there were men in lodges getting £500 to £1000 a year, who received medical benefits.

The agreement arrived at by the Conference of Friendly Societies and the B.M.A., under the chairmanship of Mr. F. Flowers (Hon. Minister) was submitted for adoption. It provides

that a man may join an order so long as his income does not exceed £4 per week, and he can receive medical benefits until his income reaches £6 per week. If a man earns more than £4 per week, but is in poor circumstances and cannot afford medical attendance at ordinary rates, his case will be specially considered. It is provided that a man with his wife and children up to 16 years shall receive the medical benefits at 19s. per annum in the city, 21s. in the suburbs, and 26s. in the country. The agreement also provides a confinement fee of £2 2s., and that a doctor shall have certain hours of consultation. Operations are a matter for private arrangement. The doctors agree to give lodge members all certificates necessary for lodge purposes. Medical officers shall meet in consultation, if so required, with local qualified practitioners, provided they shall not be required to confer with those ineligible for membership of the B.M.A. The agreement is to operate from January next. It was ultimately resolved, "That as the medical arrangements in the various districts of the State are differential, and as the representatives of the British Medical Association have consented to any minor alterations to suit local requirements, this conference accepts the agreement as the general basis of medical arrangement for lodges." It was also resolved, "That this conference further recommends to the B.M.A. that the date of the adoption of the agreement be January 1, 1914, and that the agreement hold good for five years, and that the rates per member per annum be as follows:—(*a*) for lodges in the city of Sydney and in the metropolitan area outside the city, 20s. without medicine; (*b*) for lodges in country towns having a population of over 8000, 21s. without medicine, and 29s. with medicine; (*c*) for lodges in other country towns 24s. without medicine, 32s. with medicine.

Grocers Organising—As the result of a largely-attended meeting of master grocers held in Sydney, it has been decided to fix minimum protected prices for a number of staple articles. This action has been rendered necessary by the recent rise in wages. The trade has found it impossible to continue selling at present retail prices, and has combined to pass on the extra cost to the public.

Alleged Medical Remedy.—William Brown, grocer, Haymarket, was fined £5, with costs, during the month for selling an article of food, Scott's medicinal molasses, which was alleged to be falsely described. The article was labelled "used in the leading hospitals with marvellous results." Analyses showed that the molasses was the crude article only, and contained no medicinal qualities. It was further alleged that the label was so worded as to induce the public to believe that it would cure tumors, cancer, and a large number of diseases. Defendant pleaded guilty.

The P.A.T.A. of Australia—We are glad to learn that this organisation has now passed the 9th anniversary of its birthday, says the British *Anti-Cutting Record*. It was founded in New South Wales by Mr. Louis Zions, who still remains its secretary. For a considerable time our Australian friends experienced the same difficulties that the parent Association in this country encountered years before. Amongst these difficulties one of the principal ones was that of getting the large company chemists and drapery houses doing business in proprietary articles to come into line, but this was finally achieved, and there are now some hundreds of lines on the Protected List, some of which, by the way, we should much like to see on our home list.

Proposed Subsidy to Bush Doctors—At the sitting of the shires' conference, held on April 3rd, at Sydney, it was resolved—

"That the Local Government Act be so amended as to give the shire councils power to levy a special rate for the purpose of subsidising a resident doctor as well as a qualified nurse."

During the discussion it was mentioned that Mr. Flowers, Minister in Charge of Charitable Institutions, had stated that he would place £20,000 on the next Estimates for the purposes of providing funds until such time as the councils had been given a chance to take a poll on the subject. That would enable them to meet the great hardships endured in scattered districts through lack of medical aid. The motion was agreed to. It is thought that if this proposal is carried out pharmacists should be included under its provisions.

Personal and Trade Notes.

Mr. F. C. Roberts, who for the past seven years occupied the position of accountant to Allen and Hanburys (Australasia) Ltd., was, prior to his departure for Europe on April 21 last, presented by the manager (Mr. Firkins) with a purse of sovereigns and a gold watch.

Mr. J. Fletcher Sweet, manager of the Paddington branch of Washington, Soul and Pattinson Ltd., who lately has been touring New Zealand, has returned to Sydney.

Kemp, Campbell and Coy. Ltd. has been registered with a capital of £25,000 in £1 shares, to acquire the business of F. Kemp and Coy. Ltd., and to manufacture medicines, etc. The signatures to the registration are those of G. M. Campbell, G. Georgeson, A. J. Duggard, A. W. Elvenny, W. A. H. Allworth, E. H. Buchanan, and G. H. Martin. The first directors are:—G. Murray Campbell, George H. Martin, and George Georgeson. The registered office is Sydney.

QUEENSLAND.

Pharmacy Board of Queensland.

The Board met on April 10th. Present:—Messrs. F. W. Simmonds (President), Geo. Watkins, G. J. Mackay, Geo. W. Ward, D. J. Clarke, Alex. Forbes, A. B. Chater, and the Registrar (John W. Ward).

Correspondence of a formal nature was read and minuted.

Erasure from Register.—The Registrar-General reported death of Michael Henry Cormack, chemist, Brisbane, on 23rd March, 1913. Name erased from Register.

Letters of Condolence.—Resolved that letters of condolence be sent to Mrs. M. H. Cormack, Brisbane, and Mrs. S. H. Howes, Ipswich.

Registrations.—Peter Graham Hood, Nundah, pharmaceutical chemist, W.A., applied for registration, and stated he had applied for the necessary certificate of identity in accordance with the reciprocity agreement. To be registered on receipt of the certificate. Carl Loxton, Toowoomba, pharmaceutical chemist, of Victoria, made application for registration. Granted.

Registration of Indentures.—Ethel Connellan, to J. D. Connellan, Brisbane.

The financial statement for the month ending 31st March, 1913, was read and received.

The Registrar was instructed to send out letters in accordance with Section 15 of the Pharmacy Act 1884, to chemists whose addresses were uncertain.

The meeting then adjourned.

Registration of Herbalists—The Home Secretary has promised a deputation of Queensland herbalists, which waited recently upon him, that he is prepared to give them statutory recognition on the lines suggested by the Bill of 1911, which was not passed by Parliament. He was unable to say, however, whether the proposed legislation would be introduced during the coming session.

Mr. Michael Henry Cormack, a well-known Brisbane pharmacist, died from heart failure on March 23. He was formerly in business in Victoria, but came to Queensland some years ago and acquired one of the old established pharmacies in Brisbane. He was a genial spirit, and was greatly esteemed in the city.

Drysdales Ltd., Brisbane, the new co-operative day and night pharmacy, has increased its capital by the issue of 2000 fresh shares paid up to 12s. The new issue was well applied for, and the company has now about 60 per cent. of the pharmacists in business in Queensland on its share register. Individual holdings of shares must not exceed 100, nor be less than 20. After four months' business a dividend at the rate of 25 per cent. was paid. Co-operative buying is now being undertaken, and the company is putting up a comprehensive list of proprietaries for its members. Drysdales Ltd. has made an auspicious start, and with good management should continue to be a sound business proposition.

TASMANIA.

Pharmacy Board of Tasmania.

The Board met on April 17, Mr. J. T. Weaver presiding. Messrs. Drake, Gould, Rushton, and Sidwell were also present.

Doctors and the Pharmacy Act.—The Registrar reported that he had received notification from the police that Mr. Ellis had asked them to take action in the matter of storekeepers selling medicines. After consultation with the President, the matter had been referred to the Board's solicitor, and his reply was read. The point also arose as to a medical man's rights and powers under Section 39 of the Pharmacy Act. The police have therefore been asked to find out to whom the pharmacy at Derby belonged, whether to F. J. Ellis or to Doctor von See. Doctor Harrison wrote asking whether the holder of a certificate from the Apothecaries' Hall, London, was eligible for registration in Tasmania. Registrar had replied in the negative.

Victorian Certificates.—Mr. Ivan R. Elliott wrote asking if he could be registered on his Victorian certificate. Registrar read his reply in the negative, which was approved, and on the question of what examination the Board would require it was resolved that only the Victorian Preliminary could be accepted.

Reciprocity with New Zealand.—Agreement in duplicate executed by the Pharmacy Board, New Zealand, for reciprocity with Tasmania was approved, and the Registrar was instructed to apply to the Chief Secretary for the consent of the Governor to the arrangement.

After transacting formal business the Board adjourned.

Mr H. T. Gould has resigned from the Council of the Pharmaceutical Society of Tasmania, a position which he has occupied since 1891, when the Society was formed. Thirty-one years ago he became Hon. Secretary of the Hobart Chemists' Association, and ever since he has been connected with official pharmacy in one capacity and another. He does not intend to relinquish his seat on the Pharmacy Board.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

Pharmaceutical Society of West Australia.

The 21st annual meeting was held at Perth on March 26. Eighteen members were present and Mr. A. L. Tilly, President, occupied the chair. After the transaction of routine business, including the adoption of the report and financial statements, refreshments were served and the toast of "The President and the Council" honoured. Mr. Tilly then proposed the toast of "The Registrar," and eulogised the services of Mr. E. W. Mayhew, who for 21 years had been connected with the Council. Other members supported the toast, and Mr. Mayhew was presented with a purse of sovereigns as a mark of esteem. In responding, he assured the members that he would always be ready to do anything which would advance the cause of pharmacy in Western Australia. "The Wholesale Houses" were next toasted, and Mr. Wood, of Felton, Grimwade and Bickford Ltd., suitably responded. The final toast, "The New Members of the Council," was acknowledged by Messrs. Carter, Gully, and Lohrmann.

Perth Shop Assistants' Union—The members of the Shop Assistants' Union, who were debarred under the new Arbitration Act from registration, have rejected the employers' proposals that they should be registered in six sections—hardware, grocery, drapery, boots, jewellery, and pharmacy—with separate registers. The scheme was rejected on the grounds that it would split up the union, which desires the formation of a strong central body, embracing shop assistants generally.

Masonic—R. W. Bro. A. L. Tilly, P.J.G.W., President of the Pharmaceutical Council of Western Australia, has been appointed Worshipful Master of the Goolamrup Lodge, No. 94, which was consecrated and dedicated on March 15. An excellent full page portrait of Wor. Bro. Tilly was published in the March issue of the *West Australian Freemason*.

The Lysol Problem—At a recent coronial inquiry the jury added a rider to their verdict recommending the Government to restrict the sale of Lysol "in some way." The coroner pointed out the difficulty of further regulating the sale of this compound on account of its large use commercially. Later on the *West Australian* published an interview with Dr. Taafe, who referred to the agonising death which ensued from lysol poisoning, and pointed out the loophole in the administration of the Poisons Act, which existed by wholesale houses selling dangerous poisons without complying with the requirements which retail pharmacists were compelled by law to enforce.

Mr. F. T. Lohrmann, who has been elected a member of the Pharmaceutical Council of Western Australia, was formerly in business in Victoria, and was well known in cricketing circles there. He carried on a business for some time in Madeline-street, Carlton.

NEW ZEALAND.

The Status of Opticians.

At the annual dinner of the New Zealand Optical Association, recently held at Christchurch, the President (Mr. B. Falk) referred to the improved position of opticians in the Dominion. He said that one of the main aims of the Association was to educate both the optician and the public. To keep members in touch, it was proposed to divide the Dominion into four districts, Auckland, Wellington, Christchurch, and Dunedin, each having a separate secretary. Papers would be sent out dealing with important questions, thus keeping members informed regarding the progress of optical science. Opticians in outlying districts very often were confronted with uncommon cases. The papers which would be circulated would bring such cases under general notice. The Association had no intention of infringing upon medical rights, but desired rather to co-operate with the medical profession. The difficulty was that many people were reluctant to consult a doctor, even when advised by an optician to do so, and later on when complications set in they laid the blame on the optician. The question of providing glasses for those who were unable to pay for them would be dealt with by the Association. Dr. Chilton said that the confidence of the public could be gained only if each member did honest work. The existence of quacks was made possible by the general public remaining ignorant of the value of the qualified optician's services, and the harm done by unskilled practitioners. *The Australasian Medical Gazette*, in commenting on the speeches, say, that "the great danger which arises from the possession and display of diplomas lies in the general public being led to believe that the optician was qualified to treat diseases of the eye as well as prescribe and manufacture spectacles. In so far as the Association is seeking to work in harmony with the medical profession and to confine itself to supplying spectacles on the prescription of competent ophthalmic surgeons, we are in full sympathy with it."

CORRESPONDENCE.

We are not responsible for opinions expressed by our correspondents. The name and address of the writer must always be supplied, not necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee of bona fides.

TO THE EDITOR OF *The Australasian Journal of Pharmacy.*

Six o'Clock Closing.

Sir,

Mr. Lacey's suggestion to close at six o'clock is well received by many pharmacists I have spoken to upon the subject. The present hour of closing at eight p.m. indicates that the public wait till the last fifteen minutes before coming for the humble three-penn'orth of drugs, and that no matter what hour the latest time for shopping may be they will wait till then. If we observe those coming after six o'clock it will be noticed from their purchases that they do not consist of the better shoppers. The more payable customer comes during the afternoon, when they have time to look about quietly and purchase with some degree of comfort. The late shopper is in a tearing hurry, and does not permit of the exercise of a salesman's ability. An advantage which may be considered is both the saving of light in the winter, and the extra cost of wages in providing relief when the regular assistant is off, which must be two nights per week.

A wages board for assistants will be the next movement, because the one man shop chemist will see the power of competing with dispensaries under the National Insurance Scheme, which is advocated by both Federal parties.

It is beginning to be realised that chemists' shops do not pay a profit beyond 15 per cent. under the best of conditions now. This will be absorbed by the extra cost of assistance in the future, consequently if we are to make only wages from our businesses, then it behoves us to see that we are not working harder and deprived of the social intercourse of friends and enjoyments granted to other workers.

When I myself was an assistant twenty years ago, I was informed that I had a voice equal to the best of tenor singers, and for a short period I revelled in the enjoyment of the stage and theatre as a chorus singer. The power to follow this line up was denied to me in consequence of the slavery hours of pharmacy. Have I gained as much from life as I would have done from the other vocation? I do not think so, and I am sure that the rewards after that period for the life debilitated and soured has not been worth the sacrifice. How many

other pharmacists have also lost the opportunity of entering another profession or following another vocation when they found that pharmacy was a delusion and a snare as regards the acquisition of wealth.

The time has now passed for the forty-year-olders, but the possibility of reaching seventy years of life is being jeopardised by continuing under the present terms of labour; meals interrupted, breathing a confined atmosphere, and listening to the unhealthy talk of miserable people who pay only a losing price for services rendered.

Yours, etc.,
"LET THE LIGHT SHINE."

Society of Past Students.

To the Editor *Journal of Pharmacy.*

Sir,—Strong representation has been made to me that a society of past students of the College would be welcomed. As one man put it, "we make pleasant friendships during the year we attend there, and it would be a good way to encourage the continuation of these." I would like an expression of opinion from your readers.

I am, yours truly,
T. E. TURNER.

Re Old Student's Society.

To the Editor *Journal of Pharmacy*,

Sir,—

Having heard that a movement is on foot for the formation of a society of past students of the College of Pharmacy, I crave space to give my opinion on the subject, as this always has been one of my ideas of keeping students of the College in touch with one another. I think that if the minutes of the dinner of past and present students, held at Rubira's Cafe, 1897, were looked into, it would be seen that I spoke about the same matter on that occasion.

Just a few reasons why such a society would be advantageous:—A pharmaceutical student attends the College for lectures for the best part of a year, during which time he becomes associated with other students, and forms certain friendships and acquaintances; but at the end of the course the matter ends, as he afterwards drifts into other channels and loses sight of his fellow students, and the friend and comradeship which he had formed during his lecture year lapses. This is lamentable for the following reason:—The comradeship formed during the College sessions is a thing to be fostered, inasmuch as the student will not always be an apprentice or assistant, for one day (it is to be hoped) he will become a master chemist, and that kindly spirit and good fellowship should exist towards others who were his colleagues in days gone past, and this feeling would materially help in business in more ways than one, as it would place him on a better footing with the man "in the shop up the street" if he were a member of the Old Pharmacy Students' Society.

With a society, the past students could then have a meeting house where they could go in their spare time, and would be sure of a hearty greeting from their fellow members. New members would be gathered every year, and by such means it would be possible to obtain a better acquaintance of each other. There are numbers of chemists in business to-day who do not know each other even by name, although they have all been through the College.

If I might be allowed to suggest, I think that the society could be made educational as well as social. Papers on matters appertaining to chemistry and practical pharmacy could be read at some of its meetings. The place of meeting should be as central as possible, and the subscriptions be made as small as practicable, so that membership would then be within the reach of all. If the Society is formed, I shall be pleased, as an old student, to do what lies in my power to further its interests and make it a success.

In conclusion, I sincerely trust that this matter will not end here as other social association attempts have done; and that some abler pen than mine will take this matter up and do more justice to the merits and advantages to be gained by the formation of such a society, and to the support that should be given to such a movement: "The link between the present and the past." Thanking you in anticipation for a perusal of this,

Yours, etc.,
GEO. A. MAY.

LEGAL AND MAGISTERIAL.

Chemist Fined for Late Trading—Before Mr. Morrison, P.M., and a bench of honorary justices, at the Collingwood Police Court, on May 14, Nicholas White, chemist, of 286 Smith-street, was charged with having on 23rd April kept his shop open after hours. Gordon Charles Dangerfield and Leslie Frederick Richards gave evidence that after the shop had been closed they saw a man and woman knock at a side door. They were supplied with articles. Defendant admitted that he had served customers with prescriptions, which had been ordered before he closed the shop, and which he could not make up at the time. The bench held that the case was proved, and as defendant had been twice previously convicted of similar offences, he was fined £5, with 10s. 6d. costs.

Seventy Years Ago.

[*From The Pharmaceutical Journal of March*, 1843.]

Profits and Morality.

One of the most difficult and intricate subjects which it comes within our province to discuss is the regulation of the prices of drugs and the remuneration for labour in their preparation. This is not merely a mercantile question; it affects the credit of our profession no less than it does the pecuniary interests of our members, for while it may be considered an axiom that a certain amount of competition is essential to the good of the public, it is no less true that a business which does not realise a living profit cannot be respectably conducted.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

J. H.—*An apprentice* is entitled to his wages during sickness unless it is specially stipulated otherwise in his indentures. There is no obligation, therefore, to make up the lost time, but it is entirely at the option of the parties to make a mutual arrangement.

H. H. (Warragul)—There is no reciprosity between Victoria and Tasmania, and you could not open a business in the Island State on your Victorian diploma.

London Medical Exhibition.

Among other historical medical objects of exceptional interest that have been secured for the Historical Medical Exhibition organised by Mr. Henry S. Wellcome, and which will be opened in London during the meeting of the International Medical Congress, in the coming summer, are many personal relics of Dr. Edward Jenner, the discoverer of vaccination. These include the original lancets and scarifiers he employed during his first experiments, his case and account books, his snuff box, medicine chest, and many other interesting articles. A large collection of autograph letters of Jenner's, some of unique interest, have also been loaned, together with the armchair from his study in which he died. Other objects connected with the life of Jenner are also to be exhibited, including many valuable portraits of himself and family, painted at different periods, the illuminated address presented to him together with the freedoms of the cities of London and Dublin. Concerning the history of anæsthesia, many interesting relics are to be exhibited, beginning with the original autograph journal and manuscripts of Henry Hill Hickman, F.R.C.S., the discoverer of the application of the principle of anæsthesia by inhalation for surgical operations, which he proved by the actual experiments on animals in 1823. Personal relics of Sir James Simpson, and some of the earliest forms of apparatus for administering chloroform and ether will constitute an exhibit of more than usual interest. Those who may possess any objects of a similar character connected with the history of medicine and the allied sciences, and who would be willing to loan them, should communicate with the Secretary, 54A Wigmore Street, London, W., who will be pleased to forward a complete illustrated catalogue to anyone interested.

PERSONAL.

Mr. Stanley M. Nye has accepted an engagement with Mr. J. W. Sobee, Mildura.

Mr. J. H. Mitchell has been relieving at the Essendon dispensary.

Mr. J. H. Lithgow, pharmacist, of Launceston, Tasmania, paid a visit to Melbourne early in May.

Mr. R. K. Allport, of Messrs. Sayers, Allport Prop. Ltd., Sydney, paid a visit to Melbourne on May 12.

Mr. W. B. Reid, South Melbourne, has returned to Victoria, after a short trip to Scotland. He is now with Mr. Imes.

Mr. Alex. Markell, of Messrs. C. Markell and Co., Sydney, returned to Australia on April 26th, after three years' absence in America.

Mr. J. Roper Hodgson, who has been relieving at the Northcote dispensary, has accepted a position with Mr. Imes, South Melbourne.

Mr. J. T. Allan, who has been managing Mr. J. Barnes' branch business at Horsham for some months, has gone to the Geelong dispensary.

Mr. Harold E. Bailey, who recently returned from England, has accepted a position with Messrs. Bowen and Co.

Mr. A. Steinthal, a young Danish pharmacist, who has had wide Continental experience, has arrived in Melbourne, and is seeking a position as assistant.

Mr. R. J. Coakley, of Messrs. Philpots and Coakley, Castlemaine, left on May 15 on a trip to the South Sea Islands *via* Sydney. He expects to be absent for about six weeks.

The Misses Katie and Sara McDonough, who recently visited England, returned to Victoria during the month, and have resumed their duties at the Eye and Ear Hospital and the Northcote dispensary.

Mr. W. B. Mellor, who recently came out from England, and became registered in Victoria, and has been assisting Mr. C. G. Imes, South Melbourne, for some months, returned to the old country by the "Orontes" on April 30th.

Masonic.—The joint installation of officers of the Daylesford Masonic Lodges took place on April 24th, when Bro. S. Morrow, pharmacist, was installed W.M. of the St. George lodge. The ceremony was conducted by R.W. Bro. C. C. Salmon.

Country Pharmacists in Town.—Messrs. R. O. Hughes, Wangaratta; W. H. Taite, Yea; Wm. Denby, Corryong; H. Thursfield, Colac; M. A. Walter, Lang Lang; F. C. Hughes, Wangaratta. H. S. Bird, Shepparton; H. J. Mewkill, St. Arnaud; R. J. Coakley, Castlemaine.

Mr. W. G. Fegent, of Sydney, spent his honeymoon in Melbourne during the month. He has dissolved partnership with Mr. S. C. Ottoway, who will continue to carry on the Oxford-street business on his own account, whilst Mr. Fegent will take over the Kensington and Waverley branches, one of which will be under the management of Mr. W. A. Rodger, a former demonstrator at the College of Pharmacy, Melbourne.

Dr. H. J. A. Mau, surgeon dentist, Carlton, died in Dr. Moore's private hospital on May 10 after a short illness. Dr. Mau was formerly in business as a chemist in Elgin-street, Carlton, and was a member of the Pharmacy Board for about six months in 1897. At the next election he was displaced by Mr. James Lacey, who contested the seat. He was well known in sporting circles, and at one time was Vice-President of the Carlton Bowling Club.

Mr. E. H. Leete, who has been elected to succeed Mr. E. T. Church as a member of the Council of the Pharmaceutical Society of Australasia, is a native of Kyneton, and served his apprenticeship in that town to Mr. Church during the years 1889-92. He went through the College Course, and passed his Final Examination in December, 1893. In March, 1894, he took over the management of the business of the late Mr. J. F. Ernst, 443 Brunswick-street, Fitzroy, and three years later he purchased the business, which he continued to carry on until 1903, when he disposed of it to Mr. (now Dr.) F. J. Burns. Prior to selling, he acquired his present business in Malvern from Mr. C. E. Hirst. Mr. Leete took an active part in the P.A.T.A. movement in Victoria, and was a member of the Council of that body, retaining his connection with it until lack of support by pharmacists generally made it impossible to carry on the work of the Association. It was on Mr. Leete's suggestion that the South Suburban Chemists' Association inaugurated the co-operative movement, which later on developed into the formation of the Sigma Chemical and Toilet Co. Mr. Leete has been for many years a keen supporter of the Pharmaceutical Society. He showed practical interest in the P.D.L. when that body was formed, and with Mr. Church, took out an indemnity policy for £500, to give the movement a good start. Mr. Leete has the reputation of being a worker, and his nomination as a member of the Council met with unanimous approval immediately the proposal was made.

Mr. Millard Johnson, a former member of the Council of the Pharmaceutical Society of Australasia, was entertained at a dinner at the Savoy on May 1st, prior to his departure to America, where he will be the chief representative of Amalgamated Pictures Ltd. Almost every picture theatre manager in Melbourne was present. The health of the departing guest was proposed by Mr. F. Lincoln, who paid a tribute to Mr. Johnson's thorough knowledge and grasp of the picture show business. The public were assured that with Mr. Johnson in America and in England, observing, advising and selecting the products of the old world's makers, the best pictures obtainable would be secured for Australia.

Mr. F. S. T. Sare, a qualified British pharmacist, arrived in Melbourne on April 19 by the "Runic," from London. He has had good English experience, and for 12 years has managed the branch pharmacy of Messrs. Henry Hodder and Co. Ltd., Bath. He intends acquiring colonial experience before settling down in business on his own account. Mr. Sare was about to purchase a pharmacy in England, but the passing of the National Insurance Act dissuaded him from risking his capital. He states that the new Act has struck a staggering blow at British pharmacy, notwithstanding all that has been said to the contrary—so he decided to pack up his belongings and make a fresh start in Australia.

Mr. E. T. Church, through ill-health, has been compelled to tender his resignation as a member of the Council of the Pharmaceutical Society of Australasia, and the Board of Directors of the P.D.L. Both resignations have been accepted with very great regret. Mr. Church became a member of the Council in 1899, and at once took a prominent place in that body. He followed Mr. Witt as President in 1901, and carried out the duties of the office so satisfactorily that he was elected for a second term in 1902. Ten years later (1912) he again filled the presidential chair, and would have presided over the deliberations of the Australasian Pharmaceutical Conference had not his medical advisers insisted on his taking things easier. He therefore reluctantly retired towards the close of the year, and Mr. Bailey was appointed in his place. Mr. Church was one of the founders of the P.D.L. and one of its most ardent supporters, and although he has been unable to attend the recent meetings, he always evinced a deep interest in its welfare. Pharmacists generally will join us in wishing him a speedy recovery to his former good health.

TRADE NOTES

Mr. A. Stevenson, has purchased the business of Mr. R. Johnston, North Carlton.

Mr. F. Cathcart, who recently returned to Victoria from South Africa has purchased the business of Mr. C. H. Peacock, Canterbury.

Mr. Arthur Vale, Macauley Road, Kensington, announces in this issue that he is undertaking coaching work for the final Examination.

Mr. F. A. Williams, late of Oakleigh, has purchased Mr. A. M. Cattach's business in Johnston-street, Collingwood.

Messrs. Duerdin and Sainsbury have appointed Mr. Fred. Morgan town traveller, *vice* Mr. D. Bowers. Their country traveller, Mr. Frank Evans, has been laid up with typhoid fever, and Mr. Geo. Hastings has taken up his round in the meantime.

Early Closing at Kerang.—Messrs. D. Atkinson and F. Cornu, the two local pharmacists, have decided to close in future at 8 p.m. every night, except Saturday. They inserted a joint notification to this effect in the local paper.

New Dispensaries.—At a meeting of dispensary delegates, held in North Melbourne recently, it was decided to open a local branch of the Melbourne U.F.S. Dispensary, at the corner of Arden and Abbotsford streets, North Melbourne. The branch will be opened about the end of May. Another branch is projected for the Carlton district. Negotiations are in progress for the opening of dispensaries at Middle Park and Warrnambool.

Nyal Window Dressing Competition.—The result of the Nyal Window Dressing Competition, held during the last week in April, as judged by the Vice-President, Mr. W. D. Williams, were as follows:—First prize, Messrs. Shaw and Aumont, Collingwood; second prize, Mr. E. L. Fisher, Elizabeth-street, Melbourne; third prize, Messrs. Murton and Battarbee, Moonee Ponds. The displays generally were of a high standard, and a keen interest in the competition was shown by the members generally

Analysis of a Pharmacist's Business.—A well-known suburban pharmacist carrying on business in a thickly-populated district, in which the working-class predominates, has taken the trouble to analyse his returns for the past three months. The result is as follows:—

Patents	27.6
Drugs and Chemicals	21.9
Sundries	17.4
Own Proprietaries	16.8
Dispensing prescriptions ..	9.0
Counter dispensing	7.3
	100.0

The analysis shows the small percentage of dispensing done and the predominating sale of "patent medicines." No doubt the existence of a large and well-conducted dispensary in the locality accounts for the small amount of dispensing. Other returns of a similar nature from different suburbs should make interesting reading.

A Curious Order.—Mr. E. E. Malyon, Ballarat, received a very amusing post card from a correspondent in the West Indies during the month. The card was posted at St. Thomas' on February 26th, addressed as follows:—Mr. W. H. Malyon and Son, 120 Stoke-street, Melbourne, manu-chemists, Ballarat, Victoria, London. It arrived safely at its destination on April 21st. The card read:—Sir,—Oblige me by send your free sample of Lignolliene. I has a terrible itching in my feet—the more I scratch the more I feels to scratch. Sirs, your Munro, Nepton, St Thomas' D.W.I. Mr. Malyon complied with his correspondent's request, and is now awaiting with interest an acknowledgment of the receipt of the sample.

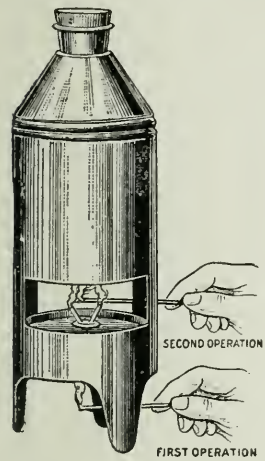
"Stop Supplies."—Many of the largest distillers or blenders of proprietary brands of *whisky, says the Journal of Commerce* of May 14, have determined to form a "Wine and Spirit Brands Association," with the object of fixing minimum prices at which the individual brand would be sold to the public. The names of retailers not complying with the provision of departing from the minimum prices, were to be put on a "Stop Supplies" list, and sent to the wholesalers. The Distillers' Association had a conference some time ago with provincial Wine and Spirit Associations, at which the latter promised their support to the movement, but also wanted the Brands Association to immediately proceed to frame a similar list of wholesale prices of branded spirits; but this the latter said it was unable to do, the fixing of retail prices was the more important, and would take time to bring about.

Sigma Chemical and Toilet Co.—The provisional directors of the company, Messrs. Bartlemann, Church, Goode, Leete, Pickford, and F. White, met on May 14 and completed the revision of the Articles of Association, which are to be submitted for adoption to a general meeting of the members on June 27. Steps will then be taken to register the company under the Companies Act. The capital of the company will consist of 2000 £1 shares, to be issued to registered pharmacists in retail business. Not more than one share will be issued to one individual. The directors intend holding in trust a number of shares for assistants and apprentices on the conditions set out in the Articles. Additional capital will be raised by issuing 500 debentures of £1 each, priority being given to applicants for small parcels. The company expects to supplement the hair lotion and salve at present on the market by the early addition of six new lines.

Mr. John Rosier, chiropodist and foot specialist, 248 Swanston-street, Melbourne, is in receipt of several additional unsolicited testimonials on his successful treatment of obstinate cases which previously had been regarded as incurable. In one case the patient developed paralysis four years ago, had undergone massage for two years, and had had her legs in splints for 18 months. After three months' treatment by Mr. Rosier, the child was able to move her legs, and the mother writes that she is gradually but surely improving. A danseuse, whose feet were so bad that after every stage appearance they bled, writes from Auckland that she is now completely cured. Another writer from Mount Gambier expresses deep gratitude to Mr. Rosier for his successful treatment. Mr. Rosier will be pleased to show these and other original testimonials to anyone interested.

Historical Medical Museum.—The Historical Medical Museum, organised by Mr. Henry S. Wellcome, which is to be opened in London in June next, will include an exhibit of a large collection of the original apparatus used by Galvani in making his first experiments in Galvanism in

the 18th century, and also a remarkable collection of votive offerings. The custom of presenting these offerings in cases of sickness is a very antient one, and the collection will include Græco-Roman votive offerings of special anatomical and pathological interest in silver, bronze, marble and terra-cotta, together with a number of similar objects used for the same purpose in medieval and modern times. Antient microscopes and optical instruments, gathered from all quarters of Europe, will form another important feature, and a selection of surgical instruments used by famous surgeons when operating on historical personages, amulets and charms connected with English folk medicine, early medical medals and coins from the Græco-Roman period, antient manuscripts and early printed medical books will also be shown, together with many other objects of interest to medical and scientific men.



Messrs. Denyer Brothers, Swanston Street, Melbourne, are advised that the J. Ellwood Lee Co. have discontinued the manufacture of the Combined Formaldehyde—Sulphur Torch owing to the very large percentage of breakages both for Home and Foreign deliveries. In place of same they have introduced the Lister Improved Fumigator (an illustration of which is shown hereon) which is considered a very superior article in every respect to the old style. It is undoubtedly an ideal Formaldehyde Fumigator and fulfils the purpose for which it is designed. Scientific tests have proved that under general conditions it is an absolute germ destroyer. Denyer Brothers will not be able to execute further orders for the old style of Torch, and to meet the demand for this class of commodity, they have secured a large shipment of the new Improved Fumigator. The trade are requested to order their wants as early as possible. Further large shipments of Johnson and Johnson Plasters and General Dressing lines are also to hand, and moving off very rapidly.

Helps and Hindrances in Photography A new photography booklet bearing the above title has just been issued by Messrs. Burroughs, Wellcome & Co. It contains a very succinct and interesting description of modern methods. The privileges of the present day photographer in contrast with his predecessors of the wet plate era are insisted upon and the advantages to be derived from the latest helps to accuracy and precision in work are pointed out. Tank development regulated by time and temperature is advocated and a very useful table showing the precise strengths of solution suitable for various times, temperatures and classes of plates is given. The table is rendered very simple and exact by being worked out in terms of "Tabloid" products which form fixed units and can be relied upon under all conditions. Working details of various toners are given including the "Tabloid" Blue and Green Toners recently introduced. These are illustrated in colours. The booklet concludes with a brief description of the "Wellcome" Exposure Calculator. Copies of the booklet will be supplied on application to 481 Kent Street, Sydney.

Dearer Cod Liver Oil.—On the north-west coast of Norway there is at this moment being enacted a silent tragedy of the sea, such as only the master pen of a Defoe could portray. This is the last stage of the Lofoten cod-fishing, a 1913 disaster which marks the annual struggle in which man endeavours to wrest from tempestuous Nature the sea's greatest and most valued prize, the world's finest medicinal cod-liver oil. Even when the weather is normal and the sea calm, the lot of the Lofoten fisherman is both dangerous and arduous. But when the weather is stormy, the unsheltered sea lashes itself into wildest fury, then fortunate is he who sees again the kindly gleam of his own fireside. Yet, year after year, the Lofoten fisherman goes nobly to his dangerous task. The world needs Lofoten cod-liver oil, for no other kind of cod-liver oil is so medicinally powerful, and the lives of thousands of men, women and children may depend upon it. And, if Lofoten cod-liver oil is to be had at all, it must be obtained, whatever the weather may be, in the first three months of the year, before the cod have gone, never to return until spawning time brings them back to these wild waters. This year stormy weather has rendered fishing difficult and dangerous, and on the 1st of March the total yield of medicinal Lofoten cod-liver oil was only 683 barrels as compared with 3,150 barrels on the same date last year. Therefore there is every possibility that best Lofoten cod-liver oil will be extremely scarce until the 1914 fishing takes place. Even at this date the best oil is double the price that it was last year, and it requires no genius to foresee that this price will advance considerably during the next few months. Nevertheless, the finest Lofoten cod-liver oil will be obtainable by our readers. Messrs Scott and Bowne Ltd., the proprietors of the world-famous Scott's Emulsion, have secured sufficient of the very finest Lofoten cod-liver oil to ensure the output of their Emulsion until 1914. It is a tribute to British commerce that there are still long-established firms like this, who, when adverse conditions raise the price of the products necessary for making their specialities, are prepared to sacrifice profit rather than reduce the quality of the preparation in the slightest degree.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES AND DEATHS.

BIRTH.

Langsford.—On the 16th April, at "Lanyon," Wimmera-street, Stawell, the wife of L. C. Langsford, chemist, Stawell—a daughter (Jeanette Gertrude).

MARRIAGES.

BARNES—GLASSON.—On the 2nd April, at Minyip, by the Rev. W. R. Jones, Ralph, second son of Mr. James Barnes, veterinary surgeon, Minyip, to Mabel, only daughter of the late Rev. A. T. Glasson. (Present address, Horsham.)

CLYNE—QUINN.—On the 17th March, at St. Brigid's Church, North Fitzroy, by the Rev. — Nicholson, Richard Hugh, youngest son of Mr. David Clyne, J.P., of Carlton, to Nonie Ellen, eldest daughter of Mr. Michael Quinn, of North Carlton. Present address, Warrnambool.

DEATHS.

MAU.—On the 10th May, at Dr. Moore's private hospital, Henry James, dearly loved husband of Margaret S. Mau, loving father of Roy D'Arcy, Lionel, Neil, Dorothy, and Tommy, aged 48 years (late of Carlton).

FURTHER NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the patentees of Australian Letters Patent No. 15658/09, dated 18th December, 1908, for "Improvements in the manufacture of barium compounds," are prepared to satisfy any demands and all requirements of the public respecting the said invention.

FULLER INFORMATION and PARTICULARS obtainable from EDWARD WATERS & SONS, Patent Attorneys, 414-418 Collins Street, Melbourne, and 7 Moore Street, Sydney.

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Registrar Pharmacy Board of New South Wales,
7 Richmond Terrace, Domain, Feb. 1, 1913.

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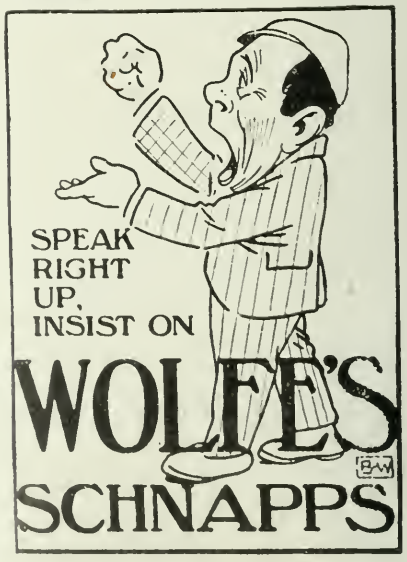

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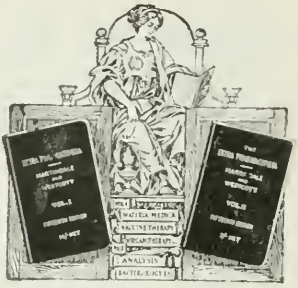

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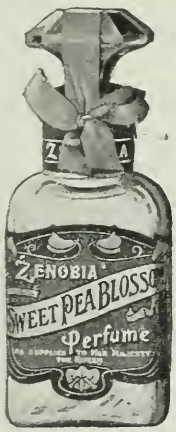

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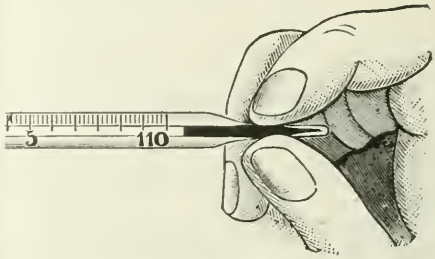

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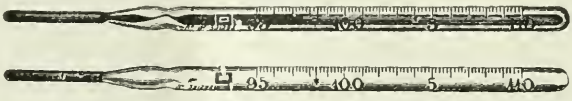

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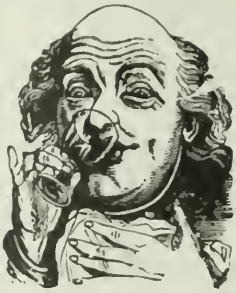

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Pharmacy Board Notices.

MEDICAL ACT 1890, PART III.
THE PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION

AS required by Section 88, Sub-section 4 of the "Medical Act 1890," Part III., is held at the COLLEGE OF PHARMACY, Swanston Street, Melbourne, in MARCH, JUNE, SEPTEMBER, DECEMBER.

Next Examination: MONDAY and TUESDAY, 2nd and 3rd JUNE, 1913.

The following are the compulsory subjects :—

LATIN.—Grammar; translation of simple sentences from English into Latin, translation into English of two paragraphs from Cæsar—De Bello Gallico, Book I., or two from Virgil—Æneid, Book I. *In each examination paper two passages from both of the authors will be given, but a candidate will be required to translate only two passages from Cæsar or two from Virgil.*

ENGLISH.—Grammar and composition. The University Text Book in English.

The Text Book for September and December, 1912, and March and June, 1913, will be:—"*A Victorian Anthology for Schools*," *by M. P. Hansen. 1st Section.*

The portions to be memorised are—*Tennyson:* Three Songs (Break, Break, Break, The Splendour Fades (Bugle Song), The Bells), and Crossing the Bar. *Browning:* Prospice. *Kipling:* Flag of England. *Henley:* England. *Newbolt:* Clifton Chapel. *Cuthbertson:* Sunrise.

For the Examinatien in September, 1913, and the three following examinations, the Text Book in English will be "A School Treasury of English Literature (*Murdoch*). Section IV. The portions to be memorised are—Blow, Blow, Thou Winter Wind (*Shakespeare*); L'Allegro (*Milton*); Sonnet on his Blindness (*Milton*); Ode to a Nightingale (*Keats*); Australian Federation (*Gay*).

ARITHMETIC.—First four rules simple and compound vulgar and decimal fractions and simple and compound proportion. Thorough knowledge of the British and metrical system of weights and measures.

GEOMETRY.—The first book of Euclid.

ALGEBRA.—So far as simple equations.

(Quality of handwriting will be taken into account in awarding marks.)

The following text-books are recommended by the Examiner :—

LATIN.—For Grammar and Composition :—
Allen's Elementary Latin Grammar.
Allen's First Latin Exercise Book.
These two books contain everything necessary for a sound and satisfactory preparation.

ARITHMETIC.—Any good school treatise.

ENGLISH.—Accidence and Analysis. Nesfield's Outline of English Grammar, omitting Part V.

ALGEBRA.—Any good school treatise. C. Smith's Elementary Algebra may be mentioned as a work covering all requirements.

EUCLID.—Any good school treatise on Euclid, Book 1. The works by Hall and Steven, Smith and Bryant, Layng, or R. Deakin (Tutorial Series), may be mentioned as thoroughly satisfactory manuals.

The questions given at the examinations are published in the "Australasian Journal of Pharmacy" for March, June, September and December in each year. 1/- a copy.

Candidates must give written notice of their intention to present themselves, together with the Fee of One Guinea, TEN DAYS prior to the date fixed for the examination.

REGULATIONS *RE* EXAMINATIONS.

1. The marks for a pass in any of the compulsory subjects of the Preliminary, Intermediate, or Final Examinations shall be not less than 50 per cent. of the maximum marks of 100.

2. Any person who fails to obtain a pass in not more than two subjects at the Preliminary, Intermediate, or Final Examinations shall be entitled after a period of three months to present himself in either or both of the subjects in which he failed at any subsequent examinations on payment of the prescribed fees.

3. If a candidate produces and lodges with the Registrar a certificate that he has, at the Junior Public or Senior Public Examination of the Melbourne University, or at some other University recognised by the Board, passed in any or all of the above subjects, he shall not be required to pass the Preliminary Examination in the subject or subjects included in such certificate.

4. Any candidate who desires a re-examination of any of the written papers sent in by him shall within seven days of the publication of the results of such examination lodge with the Registrar his application for a re-examination of such papers, and shall also pay a fee of 10s. 6d. for each and every paper examined.

5. Fees—The Preliminary Examination or any subject, £1 1s.; the Intermediate Examination, Chemistry, Practical Chemistry, Materia Medica, Botany, £2 2s., for any single subject, £1 1s.; Final Examination, all subjects, £3 3s., for any subsequent examination, £1 11s. 6d.

INTERMEDIATE EXAMINATION.

IN MATERIA MEDICA AND BOTANY AND CHEMISTRY AND PRACTICAL CHEMISTRY FOR THE CERTIFICATE OF THE COLLEGE OF PHARMACY, MELBOURNE.

THE EXAMINATION of Students who have attended the Lectures in the above subjects is held half-yearly in June and December. The next examination will be held at the COLLEGE OF PHARMACY on 4th, 5th, 6th and 7th JUNE, 1913. The Examination Fee of Two Guineas must be paid ten days before that date.

THE FINAL EXAMINATION.

IN accordance with the Provisions of Clause 40 of the Regulations of "The Medical Act 1900," Part III., an EXAMINATION IN PRACTICAL PHARMACY before the Board will be held at the College of Pharmacy on the 10th, 11th and 12th JUNE, 1913, at 10 o'clock a.m.

Candidates must give to the Registrar written notice of their intention to present themselves, together with their Indentures of Apprenticeship, the Certificates required by Section 88, Subdivision 4, of "The Medical Act 1890," Part III. and the Fee of Three Guineas, ten days prior to the day of examination.

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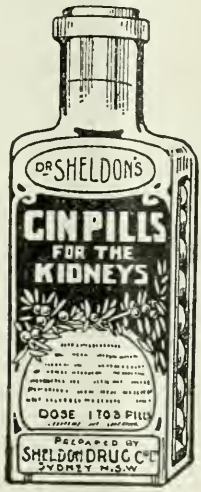

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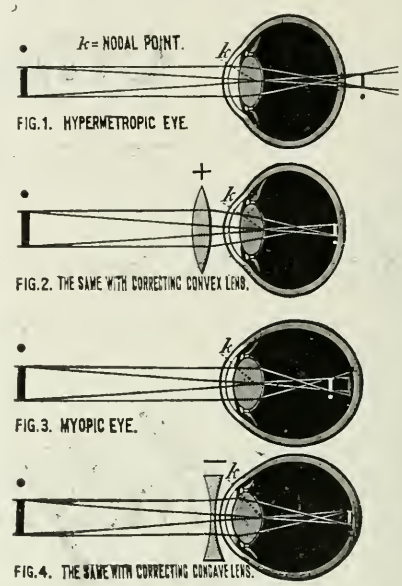

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